

Iranian court to question MP

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian newspaper said Sunday a hardline member of parliament (MP) had been summoned to appear before a special religious court. The hardline newspaper Salam did not say what charges had been brought against the man, Tehran deputy and clericman Morteza Alviri, but suggested his "crime" was to publicize the strength of hardliners in the 270-member Majlis (Parliament). Earlier this month the special court summoned the hardline deputy speaker of the Majlis, Hossein Hashemi, on charges of violating the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's orders. The crackdown on politicians opposed to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is the latest sign of a power struggle in the religious leadership between hardliners and moderates jockeying for position ahead of parliamentary elections next year. Mr. Hashemi was apparently in trouble because he attended a meeting in the Holy City of Qom with Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, the man who was long designated to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini. Ayatollah Khomeini dropped him a few months before his death in 1989 and told him to concentrate on teaching theology.

Afghan rebels disagree over Moscow talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan Mujahedeen commanders have failed to reach an agreement on a political settlement of the war in Afghanistan, guerrilla sources in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said Sunday. They said the commanders, while generally in favour of a political accord to end the 13-year-old war, were at odds over whether to back more talks between the Pakistan-based Mujahedeen political leadership and Moscow. The 200 commanders and their representatives met Friday and Saturday at the Zhawar headquarters of commander Jalaluddin Haqqani in eastern Afghanistan. Mujahedeen and Soviet leaders met in Moscow this month for peace talks, boycotted by three hardline guerrilla groups but welcomed by Pakistan, home to some three million Afghan refugees and the main conduit of arms supplies to the guerrillas. During the talks, the Mujahedeen promised to free some of the 60 to 80 Soviet troops believed still held by the rebels three years after it withdrew its last troops from Afghanistan. The guerrillas say thousands of Mujahedeen are held by the Kabul government. In return, Moscow acknowledged that its 1976 invasion of Afghanistan was wrong, pledged to withdraw its advisers from there and accepted the idea of an "Islamic" interim government.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي.

Volume 16 Number 4864

AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER (25) 1991, JUMADEH AL OULA 19, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Crown Prince meets German minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received German Minister for Families and Senior Citizens Helmut Roessig and discussed with her Jordan's economic conditions and the impact of the influx of hundreds of thousands of returnees to the Kingdom. Also discussed were the peace process and its potential effects on the region. The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Development Amin Awad Mashaqbeh and the German ambassador in Amman.

Iraq denies its food distribution is unfair

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad's Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh Sunday denied Western claims that food was being distributed unfairly and said the ration system was working well. "All Iraqi citizens, Arabs and foreigners receive their share under the ration-card system on a monthly basis without discrimination," he told the Iraqi News Agency. He said the U.S. administration had claimed "that the food stocks in Iraq have been distributed to certain individuals according to whim." He called for the release of Iraqi funds held abroad to allow it to buy urgently-needed supplies. "Iraq appeals to all good and honest forces in the countries where there are frozen Iraqi funds... to put pressure on their governments to release them so that it may be able to buy food and medicine," Mr. Saleh said.

King of Morocco visits Italy, Vatican

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco left for Rome Sunday for a three-day state visit to Italy, where he will have talks with President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Pope John Paul II. His visit begins Monday when the two countries will sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation at the Quirinal Palace. Officials said his talks would cover the Middle East peace process, relations between the European Community (EC) and North Africa, Mediterranean security and bilateral economic relations.

Egyptian Muslim groups clash; 1 killed

CAIRO (R) — One man was shot dead and five were wounded in a fight between rival fundamentalist groups on a football pitch, security sources said Sunday. The sources said members of the Muslim Brotherhood attacked Gama'at Al Islamiya (Islamic Groups) members with guns, chains and knives while they played football in the Upper Egypt town of Dayrut Friday afternoon. Khalid Said Ahmad, from the Islamic groups, was shot dead in the fray. Two of the injured were from the Muslim Brotherhood and the other three were from the Islamic groups.

Syria holds its 7th film festival

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has opened its seventh film festival under the slogan "for an advanced and liberated cinema" with a desire to shift the Arab film industry from dominant commercialism to quality. Syrian Culture Minister Najah Al Attar opened the festival Saturday with a call for "a new film concept after the end of the cold war." She said: "We are facing a new era of history. An era where logic and knowledge are prevailing as a result of the international developments which ended the cold war."

Turkish man caught in shootout dies

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish civilian died in hospital on Sunday after being accidentally shot when guerrillas ambushed a police car overnight. The Anatolian news agency said. A police officer and a man who police said was a member of the outlawed Turkish Workers Peasants Liberation Army (TIKKO), were also wounded in the clash in the Umraniye district on the outskirts of Istanbul.

Shamir rejects poll finding, claims continued U.S. Jewish support

From our correspondents in Washington
DISMISSING a recent poll indicating that a significant number of American Jewish leaders support a freeze on settlements in exchange for the \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asserted Sunday that the rank and file of the Jewish community in the U.S. supports his position.

He said he was not surprised at the results of the poll, but added, "I don't believe it." Mr. Shamir questioned the importance of the Jewish leaders and rejected their opinions, asserting, "I am sure 100 per cent that the rank and file of the Jewish population, the Jewish community in the U.S., support my views, my opinions." Mr. Shamir's remarks made on the CBS television programme, "Face the Nation," were taped shortly before his departure to Israel Saturday night.

Israel wants U.S. to reconsider venue

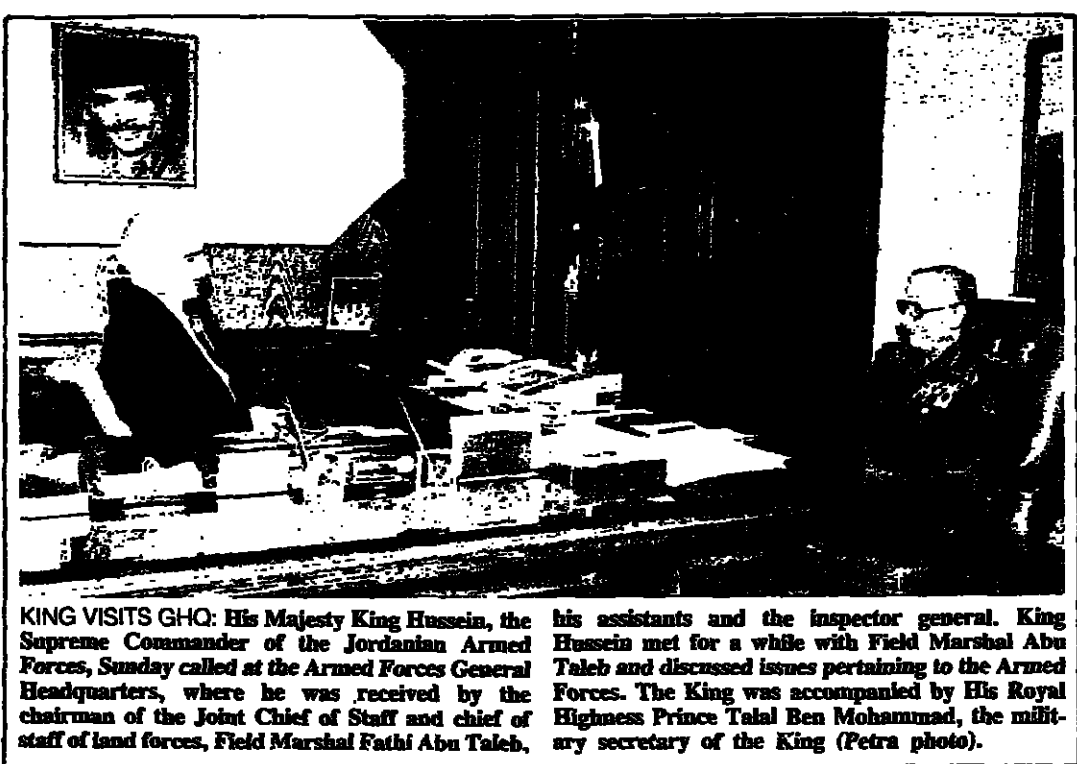
Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday he had asked U.S. President George Bush to reconsider his choice of Washington as a venue for peace talks and offer an alternative that Israel would find acceptable. "We asked the president to reconsider the site of the direct talks and continue contacts with us until we reach an arrangement acceptable to all sides," Mr. Shamir told reporters on his return to Tel Aviv from the United States.

Ghali 'knows Shamir has no expectations' of him

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali, the next secretary-general of the United Nations, refused to react to criticism by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Yedioth Aharonoth newspaper reported Sunday. "I understand that Mr. Shamir has no expectations of me, and I have no reaction to what he said," the newspaper quoted Dr. Ghali as saying during an interview in Germany.

Dr. Ghali was responding to Mr. Shamir's statement on Friday that "Israel's standing in the U.N., as we know, is not the greatest, and this decision adds to that." Dr. Ghali accompanied the late Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, on his peace mission to occupied Jerusalem in 1977 and was subsequently a member of the delegation that negotiated a peace treaty with Israel.

Mr. Shamir, then parliament speaker, opposed the Egyptian talks, and the agreement under which Israeli returned the Sinai Peninsula occupied during the 1967 war. A senior Shamir aide said Friday that although Dr. Ghali is one of the most positive Egyptian leaders on Israeli issues, Dr. Ghali shares the Egyptian view that Israel should withdraw from all territories it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, including Arab East Jerusalem.



KING VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Sunday called at the Armed Forces General Headquarters, where he was received by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the military staff of land forces, Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants and the inspector general. King Hussein met for a while with Field Marshal Abu Taleb and discussed issues pertaining to the Armed Forces. The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the military secretary of the King (Petra photo).

Iraq, U.N. agree new relief pact, deadlocked over oil sales

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq and the United Nations agreed Sunday to extend for six months U.N. relief operations for victims of the Gulf war and its aftermath but they failed to break a deadlock over Iraqi oil sales to buy food and drugs.

The six-month extension to a "memorandum of understanding" between Baghdad and the world organisation was announced at a news conference by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N. official in charge of Gulf relief efforts.

Prince Sadruddin said there had been no breakthrough in his talks with senior officials on Baghdad's bitter refusal to accept U.N. Resolution 706, which would allow Iraq to export oil worth \$1.6 billion to buy urgently needed drugs and food.

He said that if the impasse continued, "the ultimate loser will be the Iraqi people." He appealed to Baghdad to be more flexible about the Security Council resolution.

"We need funding and for funding I would be grateful if Iraq would consider exports of oil," Prince Sadruddin said.

Palestinians will demand settlement halt — PLO

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestinians will demand a halt to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories at the second round of peace talks with Israel next month, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in remarks published Sunday.

Nabil Shaath, advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the Bahrain daily Al Ayam the Palestinian delegation would submit a 14-point list of demands on Israeli settlement policy in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Halting the settlements will be the central and most important point on the agenda for the bilateral negotiations with Israel in Washington," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Bassam Abu Sharif, another advisor to Mr. Arafat, said the Palestinians had decided to accept in principle the U.S. invitation to a second round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington on Dec. 4.

The PLO is barred from taking a direct role in the peace talks at the insistence of Israel, but it directs the Palestinian half of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation from behind the scenes. Dr. Shaath was in Madrid when peace negotiations began there last month.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinians would demand Israel stop building new settlements in the occupied territories, stop moving settlers to existing houses and stop expanding the infrastructure

Palestinians hope U.S. will respond positively

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinians have not taken a final decision on whether to accept the American invitation to resume bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington, members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation said Sunday.

"We are studying the issue and have not reached a final decision yet," said delegate Samir Abdullah.

Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the delegation, also indicated the same Palestinian position although not in so many words. Dr. Abdul Shafi told Jordan Television that the Palestinians had asked that Washington treat them on equal footing with all other delegations and that a "guidance committee" and advisors of the Palestinians be given easy access to the actual negotiators.

"The U.S. replied that they (Washington) did not want this to be a precondition for our acceptance," Dr. Abdul Shafi told Jordan Television in remarks upon his return from Moscow after talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials. A Palestinian delegation accompanied him on the visit to the Soviet capital.

"However, I believe that the U.S. will respond positively to the Palestinian request," he said, adding that the Soviet Union, which is co-sponsoring the Middle East peace process, was exerting efforts to ensure that the Palestinian request was met.

Dr. Abdul Shafi described his talks in Moscow as "good and encouraging," and said that the delegation "presented the Palestinian views on the basis (of the peace process) at this stage and the difficulties that might block the march for peace, particularly the intransigent Israeli position on settlements and other statements we are hearing from the Israelis."

He said Mr. Shevardnadze was "fully aware of the whole dimension."

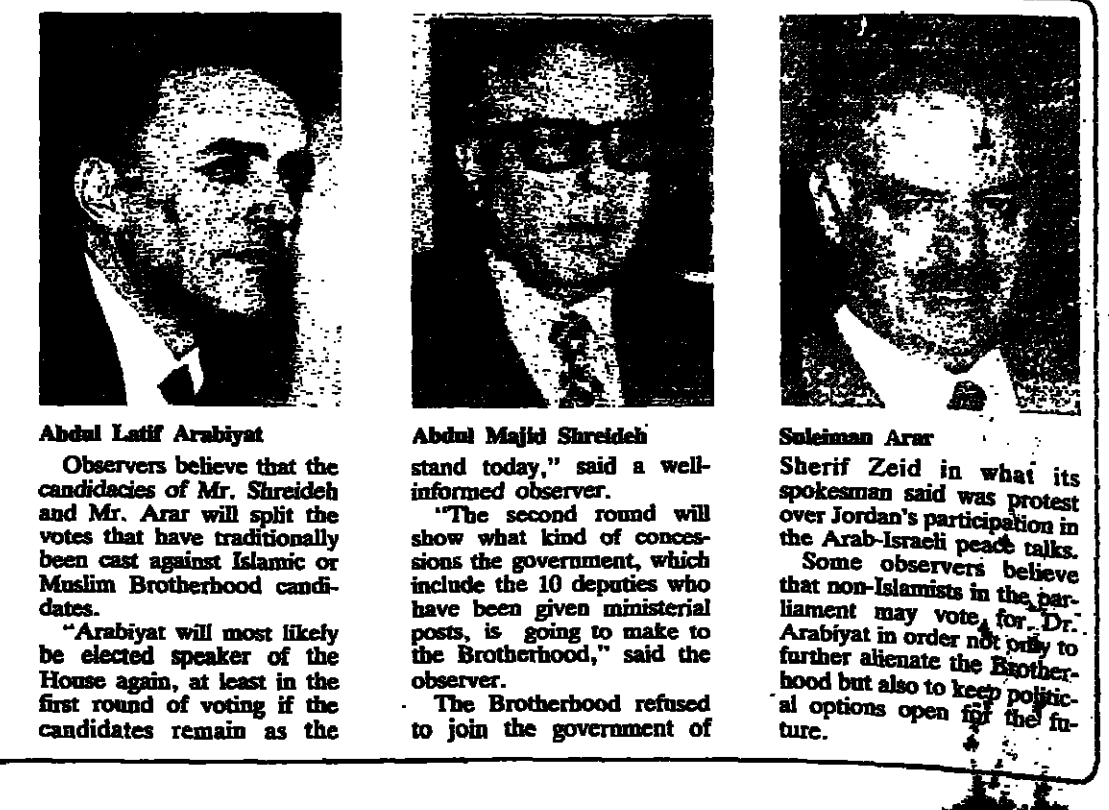
Heated speakership race is in offing

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The race for the speakership of the Lower House of Parliament has been given a heated start with the announcement by the Constitutional Bloc that it would also field a candidate for the position.

Abdul Majed Shreideh, the Constitutional Bloc candidate, will join the contest along with incumbent Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyat and former Speaker Suleiman Arar of the National Bloc.

The contestants represent the three largest blocs in Parliament and observers expect the battle on the House floor in early December, when Parliament begins its 1991-1992 session, to be the most heated one since the serving House was elected in November 1989.



Abdul Latif Arabiyat
Observers believe that the candidacies of Mr. Shreideh and Mr. Arar will split the votes that have traditionally been cast against Islamic or Muslim Brotherhood candidates.

Abdul Majid Shreideh
stand today," said a well-informed observer.

Suleiman Arar
Sherif Zeid in what its spokesman said was protest over Jordan's participation in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Iran ending hostage crisis to strengthen Syria in peace talks

BEIRUT (R) — Iran engineered a breakthrough in the Lebanon hostage crisis to strengthen Syria and prevent Israel being rewarded with U.S. support at Middle East peace talks, pro-Iranian sources said Sunday.

They said Iran had also hoped by separating the fate of Western hostages in Lebanon from Arabs held in Israel to end the seven-year hostage problem quickly and improve ties with Europe.

"Iran opposes the Middle East peace talks but appreciates Syria's headline stand in them and knows Syrian leaders had no choice but take part," a pro-Iranian political source said.

"Syria benefits from Iran's position and its own alliance with Tehran to face Israeli and American pressures," he said.

"One step which does that is disentangling the hostages from the Arab prisoners (held by Israel) and releasing them," he said.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, is Iran's closest Arab ally.

Iran says it does not control, but can influence, the kidnappers. Three Americans and two Germans are still held by groups operating under the umbrella of the Tehran-inspired Hizbollah (Party of God).

In a surprise policy shift, Iranian-backed Lebanese leaders announced last week that they no longer saw any link between freeing the last five Western hostages in Lebanon and Israel releasing hundreds of its Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners.

Hizbollah Secretary-General Abbas Musawi said Wednesday only captured Israeli servicemen or their remains, but no longer Western hostages, would be exchanged for Arabs held by Israel.

He said he expected the hostage problem to be over soon.

Kidnappers, who demanded swaps of hostages for prisoners since U.N. mediation began in August, freed British Terry Waite and American Thomas Sutherland last Monday without a release by Israel. The Tehran Times said two days later that one or more hostages would be freed within two weeks and the rest by the end of the year.

Western diplomats said the kidnappers apparently crumbled to Iranian pressure to end the hostage crisis unconditionally.

"The Iranian decision to free the hostages was taken and is irreversible despite the peace talks," another source said.

Before the Middle East peace talks began in Madrid on Oct. 30 "an appropriate price for the hostages plus news of Israeli captives (missing in Lebanon) was the Arab prisoners," he said.

"But after the peace moves sponsored by America started, the price for the Israeli prisoners or their remains has changed."

A total of six Westerners have been freed since U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar began mediating to resolve the middle East hostage crisis at the request of the Lebanese kidnappers.

Israel freed 66 Arabs and returned nine dead guerrillas in September and October in exchange for confirmed information that two of its six servicemen missing in Lebanon were dead.

Israel, which says it only frees its Arab prisoners in exchange for firm word or the return of its missing servicemen, won thanks from Washington for cooperating with the swaps.

The Jewish state received the body of a seventh serviceman in September in return for allowing an exiled Palestinian activist back to his home in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

One pro-Iranian source said separating the hostage and Arab prisoner issues had deprived Israel of the chance of winning U.S. support at the peace talks in return for the Jewish state's cooperation with U.N.-mediated prisoner-for-hostages swaps.

"The Syrians can now use their positive dealing with the U.S. reflected in their major role in freeing hostages, to win a larger margin to confront hardline Israeli stands," he added.

Ending the hostage crisis also helped Tehran improve its ties with the West, notably Europe, and eased increasing American pressure on Iran.

He said the policy switch had ensured that "the (Western) hostage file is closed, hopefully forever."

Western diplomats said the kidnappers apparently crumbled to Iranian pressure to end the hostage crisis unconditionally.

Sudan rebels attack regional capital, kill 17

KHARTOUM (R) — Rebels fighting for autonomy in southern Sudan have shelled the regional capital Juba, killing at least 17 people, travellers from the town said.

They told Reuters the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) bombarded the heavily-guarded town for at least three hours on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, hitting the airport area, the administrative district, the hospital and two refugee camps.

Juba, 1,200 kilometres south of Khartoum, has long been surrounded by rebels and for the last two years food has had to be brought in by air.

Half of its 350,000 people have fled to the town to escape fighting in the surrounding countryside.

The daily Al Sharq Al Awsat, published in Cairo and London, said Saturday Juba had come under intense artillery fire in the last two days and the airport had closed to civilian traffic.

It quoted Western diplomatic sources and informed Sudanese circles as saying the shelling was an apparent prelude to a long-planned attack on the city by an SPLA faction led by John Garang.

The newspaper report, dated London, said United Nations officials had contacted the rebels and secured a two-hour ceasefire around noon Friday to enable international aid agency workers to evacuate Juba.

Khartoum has made no comment on the reported bombardment but the travellers said government forces in Juba returned fire on Friday.

Southern Sudanese, most of whom are black and either Christians or animists, have been agitating for autonomy from the Arab and Muslim north since the mid 1950s. The SPLA has been in open revolt since 1983.

The SPLA has not shelled Juba since early last year, when at least six people were reported killed.

Al Sharq Al Awsat said the offensive was Colonel Garang's response to increasing pressure on him in recent months caused by the loss of support from Ethiopia, the SPLA's main foreign backer, and a widespread mutiny against his leadership.

Reports have spoken of up to a third of the SPLA's 50,000 troops joining the mutiny and battles between rival factions.

North disclaims knowledge of CIA link with Waite

LONDON (R) — Colonel Oliver North arrived in London Sunday saying he knew nothing about suggestions that freed British hostage Terry Waite had been working with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Since Mr. Waite was released last week after 1,763 days in captivity in Lebanon there has been intense speculation he might have acted as an unwitting man for the CIA in its conspiracy to swap arms for hostages.

Asked as he arrived at London's Heathrow airport whether Mr. Waite, a Church of England envoy, had been working for the CIA, Col. North told reporters: "Not to my knowledge."

Questioned about whether Mr. Waite had been working with him during his last visit to Beirut to rescue Western hostages, Col. North said: "He wasn't. I'd been fired by then."

Mr. Waite was seized in January 1987, two months after the "Irangate" scandal broke with revelations that Washington secretly sold arms to Iran in return for hostages. Mr. Waite insisted before his last mission he did not know of the deal.

Iran's most senior diplomat in London said Thursday that Mr. Waite's kidnappers were convinced he was a spy for the CIA.

"The Lebanese kidnappers always believed that Terry Waite was a spy for the CIA," said Charge d'Affaires Seyed Shamseddin Khareghani.

Church of England officials have advised Mr. Waite to remain silent about the U.S. arms-for-hostages scandal.

Since Mr. Waite's return on Tuesday to a hero's welcome, the British media have focused on his links with Col. North, the former U.S. national security aide who masterminded the affair.

British Broadcasting Corporation Television said Mr. Waite had nearly 20 meetings with Col. North before his final trip to Beirut and was given a U.S.-supplied transmitter in a belt buckle.

When he was asked if he felt any sense of responsibility for Mr. Waite's detention, Col. North replied: "I'm not a terrorist."

Col. North has come to Britain to promote his book, "Under Fire." He said he hoped to meet Mr. Waite, who has been recuperating at Lyneham Air Force Base, west of London.

Message of hope

Mr. Waite sent a message of hope on Sunday to the five Western hostages still held in Lebanon, dedicating at 17th century poem to American journalist Terry Anderson.

Mr. Waite included special words for Mr. Anderson, with whom he shared a cell before being released last week.

The message to Mr. Anderson, American Joseph Cicippio and Alann Steen and Germany's Heinrich Struëbig and Thomas Kemptner was broadcast on the BBC World Service, a favourite with hostages in Beirut.

It said: "Now there is a chance to say to Terry Anderson, Joe Cicippio, Alann Steen and the two German hostages — we continue to remember you and will not rest until you are free."

"We pray also for the freedom of all other hostages in the Middle East."

To Mr. Anderson, he said: "Terry, my old companion in chains, knowing your love of poetry, I thought you might appreciate the following verse by English poet John Milton."

Israelis call U.S. action on invitations 'shabby, undignified'

WASHINGTON — Officials in the Bush administration "have obviously never heard of Mrs. Bavi," remarked one Israeli diplomat, as the team accompanying Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir boarded their plane to New York at Andrews Air Force base, after what had been one of Shamir's most frustrating and even embarrassing visits to Washington.

Mrs. Bavi, the well-known Israeli who made a living advising people on good manners and proper behaviour, could have offered the Bush administration some pointers. Apparently, the diplomat felt that Secretary of State James Baker could have used tips on politeness: namely, that it is bad form to send an invitation to peace talks in Washington to the Israeli foreign ministry while the prime minister of Israel is preparing for a White House meeting with President Bush and continuing to voice his objections to holding the talks in Washington.

Another senior Israeli official was openly furious yesterday about the way the administration had treated Shamir, describing the move as "shabby" and "undignified."

It was only hours before the invitations were cable to U.S. Ambassador William Brown for delivery to the Foreign Ministry that Baker had informed Shamir at the end of their talks on Thursday, of the U.S. intention to mail out invitations, and that the invitations would go out in "coming days," with or without Israel's agreement on a venue.

However, according to Israeli officials, he failed to tell Shamir that the invitations would be sent out that very evening.

"They knew they were going to send out the invitations, and they didn't tell Shamir anything," said one Israeli official. "They knew the invitations would be on their way to the Middle East while Shamir was still saying, time after time, that we don't accept Washington."

Thus Shamir and his aides had a rude awakening Friday morning, when they reached for their trip to the White House. Not only were they informed privately of the arrival of the five-page invitation in Jerusalem, but when they switched on the morning news shows, they also witnessed a public revelation by Palestinian representative Hanan Ashrawi on the mailing of the invitations.

Baker's decision to send the invitation seemed to be an attempt to jump-start Israeli agreement to a Washington venue for the talks, perhaps with the hope that Shamir would save face by emerging from the White House announcing Israeli willingness to accept the invitation.

But Shamir would give him no such satisfaction. He insisted after the meeting that the issue of venue is still under discussion, and said numerous times that nothing has been finalised.

"We did not reach an agreement and we think the issue will continue to be discussed," he said after the meeting.

There is a sense among Israeli officials that the Arabs could have been convinced to hold the talks in the Mediterranean region with a little well-applied pressure from the U.S., but that Washington was more reluctant to pressure the Arab than to attempt to corral Shamir on accepting Washington.

The precedent of the invitations is frightening to Israeli leaders, who wonder privately that if Bush could so easily brush aside Shamir's concerns over the site of the talks, that they could just as easily ignore Israeli security worries in their haste to preserve the momentum of the peace process and score a diplomatic success — Jerusalem Post.

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Palestinians are hopeful

(Continued from page 1)

sion of the problem."

"Our impression is that the man has a strong personality and I can say that the Soviet position is in line with international legitimacy. The meeting was good, reassuring and encouraging from our point of view," he added.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said in Tunis Sunday that the Palestinian side had agreed in principle to accept the American invitation for Arab-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington but they expected the U.S. to treat the Palestinian delegation and their advisors, including PLO members, on the same footing as all other parties.

"Washington is an acceptable venue for the second round..." Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, was quoted as saying by Reuters. "The Palestinians would be very happy to participate in Washington."

"It is understood that the U.S. will deal with the parties... on an equal level," said. "We are expecting the U.S. to lift the ban on visa for PLO people and Palestinians involved in general."

"I am expecting that, the same way the Soviet Union has resumed relations with Israel, the U.S. will resume relations with the PLO," he added, referring to the suspended dialogue between the U.S. administration and the PLO.

Mr. Abu Sharif declined to say whether Palestinian participation depended on the U.S. issuing visas and resuming the dialogue.

Palestinian sources said they believed that the U.S. will issue visas to the same PLO people who attended the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Iraq, U.N. reach accord

(Continued from page 1)

"The money might be in respect of orders already placed or new orders."

Iraq, which has around \$1 billion in accounts in Britain, was likely to be free to choose which of the accounts it would like the funds to be drawn from, the source said.

It was not yet clear which exporters would be used, and whether Iraq would have any role in choosing the companies.

The Bank of England is playing a key role in working out exactly how the transfer should work.

Prince Sadruddin appeared in Baghdad to more Western states to release Iraqi assets frozen in overseas bank accounts.

"I am certainly looking to the unfreezing of more assets," he said.

Seventy-five per cent of Iraq's foreign cash is held in the United States.

Mr. Richter left Baghdad with Prince Sadruddin to fly to London on the envoy's executive jet.

Under the extension, from Dec. 31 until the end of June next year, Iraq agreed to allow U.N. agencies such as UNICEF to continue their work in the north and south of the country, scene of abortive rebellions by Kurds and Shiite Muslims in March.

Iraq apparently dropped its reservations about 500 U.N. guards on its territory.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told Prince Sadruddin Wednesday that Iraq believed many of them were spies.

Prince Sadruddin said the 500 blue-uniformed guards would continue to protect U.N. personnel.

Rival factions divide Mogadishu

NAIROBI (R) — Fighting died down in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, over the weekend but the city was still divided between hostile factions of the United Somali Congress (USC), aid workers said Sunday.

They said in reports received by radio in Nairobi that during the lull in the fighting Somali doctors working with the International Committee of the Red Cross were able to move food and medical supplies to hospitals and aid centres which had been cut off.

Red Cross officials said they had been able to continue to fly supplies to Mogadishu. Three tonnes of medical supplies were being flown in Sunday from the Red Sea port of Djibouti and five tonnes were due to be sent from Nairobi Monday.

The Red Cross said five Italian businessmen were being evacuated on one of the supply planes Sunday but aid workers were remaining at their posts.

The British ship Free Trader, carrying 750 tonnes of medical supplies, food and clothing, is lying off Mogadishu. U.N. officials who organised the shipment said it was not safe for the vessel to enter the port but it would remain in the area.

Fierce fighting broke out in Mogadishu last weekend between forces backing interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohammad and supporters of USC Chairman Mohammed Farah Aideded.

General Aideded disputes Mr. Ali Mahdi's appointment as interim president following a peace meeting of rival Somali groups in July.

Gen. Aideded's supporters control substantial areas of Mogadishu but reports from the city, devastated by a year of fighting, said they had not been able to increase their hold in the last few days and Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces were holding their own.

Former Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre fled from Mogadishu in January as rebels attacked. He is still in a remote area of western Somalia, surrounded by remnants of his forces.

Since Mr. Siad Barre was ousted the country has been effectively divided into two by the declaration of an independent Somaliland republic in northern areas.

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Since Mr. Siad Barre was ousted the country has been effectively divided into two by the declaration of an independent Somaliland republic in northern areas.

Egypt jails Kuwaiti prince for life

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court Saturday found a member of Kuwait's ruling family guilty of drug dealing and sentenced him to hard labour for life, newspapers reported.

Sheikh Talal Nasser Al Sabah, 33, laughed hysterically as the judge handed down the sentence and a 500,000 Egyptian pound (\$150,000) fine, according to early Sunday editions of the Al-Ahram and Al-Akhbar newspapers.

Police arrested Sheikh Talal, a second cousin of Kuwait's ruler Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and his Syrian cook outside his Cairo home in April and charged him with drugs dealing after finding one kilogramme of heroin on him.

He admitted possessing the drug but said he was an addict and it was for his personal use. "I burn 30 to 40 grammes of heroin daily. I am not selling it," he said at the time.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Emir awards Thatcher Kuwait's highest honour

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait awarded former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher its highest honour Sunday in recognition of her staunch support for the emirate during the Gulf crisis. The Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, smiled broadly as he presented Mrs. Thatcher with the Mubarak Al Kabir medal in a ceremony at his Bayan palace. Mrs. Thatcher was prime minister when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and was among the first Western leaders to send thousands of troops to confront Iraqi forces. The U.S.-led military alliance evicted the Iraqis at the end of February. "I want to pay tribute to all those who fought for the freedom of Kuwait, and in particular those in the armed forces of my country," said Mrs. Thatcher, who resigned as prime minister one year ago. The former Conservative Party leader has received a warm welcome from the Kuwaitis, with newspapers giving her front-page prominence for the second day running. "Thatcher... you are in our hearts. No matter what we say we cannot pay you back," said Al Rai Al Aam newspaper. "Mrs. Thatcher... Kuwait with its government and people bear in their hearts a feeling of gratitude and appreciation to you, a great friend who did not hesitate in backing justice," said Al Qabas newspaper. Mrs. Thatcher, accompanied by her son Mark, arrived in Kuwait on Saturday for a four-day visit during which she will launch the private Thatcher Institute to promote British business. Official figures show Britain has exported goods and services worth more than £400 million (\$700 million) to Kuwait since it was liberated, double the value in the year before the Gulf crisis.

Oman region declares war on mad dogs

NICOSIA (R) — A province of Oman has declared war on rabid dogs and foxes that terrorised villages with attacks on people and animals. The Omani News Agency said special teams were formed in the Gulf state's southwestern region of Zafar after rabid dogs attacked three children in one village alone. The children were slightly wounded and one of them was taken to hospital for treatment. The agency said residents, fearing a dangerous outbreak of rabies infection, killed scores of dogs and foxes throughout the province in an extermination campaign still going ahead.

Iran to return Kuwaiti planes

KUWAIT (R) — An Iranian envoy said Sunday his country was ready to return six Kuwaiti aircraft seized by Iraqi forces and flown to Iran during the Gulf war. Tehran's ambassador to Kuwait, Hussein Sadeqi, told the newspaper Sawt Al Kuwait: "Iran has expressed its readiness to return the planes through the United Nations. There are no obstacles hindering this operation." He said the handover had been discussed by Kuwaiti, U.N. and Iranian officials in Tehran. The Kuwaiti Airways planes were among scores of civilian and Iraqi military aircraft flown to Iran during the six-week war that ended in February.

France offers to mediate to end Djibouti fighting

PARIS (R) — France offered Sunday to mediate to end fighting in Djibouti but showed no sign of agreeing to the Red Sea republic government's request for military intervention against Afar rebels. "France will do everything that seems necessary to help (Djibouti) President Hassan Gouled preserve his national territorial integrity and restore peace..." a foreign ministry statement said. "Starting now, France is talking to all parties involved and proposes with determination its mediation." The Djibouti government appealed last week for French military help, invoking a 1977 agreement under which Paris pledged to defend its former colony against external aggression. It said the Afar rebellion was launched from Ethiopia. But Sunday's statement suggested that military action by France was not likely, at least for the time being. "There can be no lasting solution to the country's problems except through dialogue and reconciliation," it said. Diplomats say France, which has 4,000 troops in Djibouti, is reluctant to be sucked into a new African military adventure and is sceptical of Djibouti's claim that it was invaded.

Pakistan to revive links with Soviet Central Asia

ISLAMABAD (R) — An 18-member Pakistani delegation left for Soviet Central Asia Sunday to try to revive relations after decades of ideological separation. "The trip is not merely aimed at increasing trade, it is an emotional journey to the area which enjoyed social, cultural, religious and trade relations with the area that now constitutes Pakistan," Economic Affairs Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said. Pakistan has not recognised the independence of any of the Soviet Central Asian republics but is waiting for them to make clear exactly what continuing links they want with Moscow. Mr. Ali told the official AFP news agency he was carrying invitations from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for the leaders of six Muslim Soviet republics to visit Islamabad. Pakistan hopes the three-week trip will cement links and revive economic relations along the old trade routes which used to link Central Asia with South Asia. It plans to open a consulate-general in Tashkent and start an air link to the Uzbek capital as soon as technical problems are solved.

Rushdie appeals for help from church

LONDON (R) — British author Salman Rushdie urged the Archbishop of Canterbury Sunday to appeal to religious leaders in Iran to lift the death order that has hung over his head for nearly three years. Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding under police guard since February 1989 when Iran's then-spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill him, saying his novel "the Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam. The writer said he was extremely upset when Archbishop George Carey appealed Friday for greater tolerance towards Muslims' feelings about the novel. Archbishop Carey, spiritual head of the world's 70 million Anglicans, said Mr. Rushdie's book contained an "outrageous slur" against the Prophet Mohammad. "If he is so concerned, I would suggest to him that he should at once, as the head of the Church of England, formally ask the religious authorities in Iran to have it (the death sentence) lifted," Mr. Rushdie told the British Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Rushdie criticised Archbishop Carey for not speaking out against the religious order, (fatwa) calling for his death.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	Deux de conduite
18:00	News in French
19:00	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hey Dad
21:10	Nippon
22:00	News in English
22:30	Gabriel's Fire

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich	810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel.	637785
St. Joseph Church Tel.	624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	637440
De la Salle Church Tel.	661757
Terrace Church Tel.	622366

WEATHER	
Another rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be easterly light to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	10/24
Agaba	14/26
Deserts	8/23
Jordan Valley	15/28

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<p>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Agaba 25. Humidity reading: Amman 41 per cent. Agaba 38 per cent.</p> <p>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</p> <p>NIGHT DUTY</p> <p>AMBULANCE: Dr. Kayed Halayqa 793522, Dr. Wael Dumani 774800, Dr. Mohammad Abu Zeid 675480, Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362, First pharmacy 661912, Fendous pharmacy 778336, Al Asema pharmacy 637055, Nairosh pharmacy 626572, Al Salam pharmacy 636730, Yacoub pharmacy 644945, Shamsan pharmacy 637660.</p> <p>EMERGENCIES</p> <p>Food Control Centre 637111, Civil Defence Department 661111, Civil Defence Emergency 630441, Civil Defence Emergency 199, Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777, Fire Brigade 891228, Blood Bank 775121, Highway Police 643402, Traffic Police 896390, Public Security Department 630521, Hotel Complaints 603800, Price Complaints 661176, Water and Sewerage 845845, Complaints 897467, Amman Municipality 787111, Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121, Overseas Calls 010230, Central Amman Telephone 623101, Repairs 623101, Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101, Jordan Television 773111.</p>	<p>Dr. Mufeed Dhamra (—), Khalifeh pharmacy 985417.</p> <p>HOSPITALS</p> <p>Radio Jordan 774111, Water Authority 680100, Jordan Electricity Authority 815615, Electric Power Company 663681, RJ Flight Information 08-53200, Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200.</p> <p>AMBULANCE: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32, Khadiji Maternity, J. Amn. 642816, Al-Elek Maternity, J. Amn. 642412, Jabel Amman Maternity 642362, Madhan, J. Amman 636140, Palestine, Shamsan 664171/4, Shamsan Hospital 669131, University Hospital 845845, Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9, The Islamic, Abdell 666127/7, Al-Ahli, Abdell 664164/6, Italian, Al-Muhajira 777101/3, Al-Bashir, J. Al-Jarrah 775111/26, Army, Marfa 891611/15, Queen Alia Hospital 6224050, Amal Hospital 674135, ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323.</p>
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<p>9:15 Riyadh (RJ)</p> <p>9:15 Jeddah (RJ)</p> <p>9:30 Dhabran (RJ)</p> <p>9:40 Larana (RJ)</p> <p>9:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</p> <p>10:30 Beirut (RJ)</p> <p>16:25 Bangkok (RJ)</p> <p>17:00 Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>17:25 Istanbul (RJ)</p> <p>18:50 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)</p> <p>19:20 Yerevan (RJ)</p>	<p>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</p> <p>08:15 Beirut (ME)</p> <p>13:00 Cairo (MS)</p> <p>14:15 Paris (AF)</p>
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MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg	
Apple	600/500
Banana	500/450
Beans (Mekansum)	530/500
Beans	650/620
Cabbage	160/120
Cauliflower	220/170
Cucumbers (large)	180/120
Cucumbers (small)	360/220
Eggplant	280/220
Garlic	280/220
Grapes	500/700
Guava	500/300
Lemon	180/120
Marrow (large)	160/120
Marrow (small)	320/200
Onion (dry)	170/120
Pepper (dry)	320/260
Pepper (sweet)	430/400
Potato	300/250
Sage	600/500
Spinach	220/160
Sweet melon	270/230
Tomatoes	620/360
Watermelon	160/120

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:00 Sanaa (RJ)	
9:00 Damascus (RJ)	

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:15 Beirut (RJ)	
11:30 Montreal New York (RJ)	
11:40 Istanbul (RJ)	
12:15 London (RJ)	
12:45 Frankfurt (RJ)	
13:00 Cairo (RJ)	
13:40 Yerevan (RJ)	
14:30 Moscow (RJ)	
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
20:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
21:15 Muscat (RJ)	

Crown Prince calls for 'international human order'

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, accompanied by his wife Princess Sarvath, opened the first International Youth Congress held at the Amman Baccalaureate School Sunday.

Organised by the Student Council of the Amman Baccalaureate School, the International Youth Congress hosts a number of students from countries all over the world. These include students from Germany, India, the United States, Kenya, Tanzania, Belgium, Greece, Syria, Singapore, Malaysia and France.

The idea of holding such an international gathering was born out of a need, by students who watched at close hand the horrors of the Gulf war, to emphasise the importance of peace and harmony in the world. Thus the theme adopted at the congress was "Uniting a Divided World."

Chairing the opening session of the congress was Crown Prince Hassan, who gave a welcoming speech to visitors, students and organisers of the event.

In his speech, the Crown Prince highlighted the need to have "a code of international conduct in time of peace." He said that he had called for the establishment of such a code in Jordan 10 years ago, confirming that such a code would protect people at all times and would pave the way for an "international humanitarian order."

His Highness also spoke of the "spontaneous human goodness," saying that this goodness makes it easier for people and societies to deal with each other.

Referring to the new world order, the Crown Prince asked "can a new world order work?" he said that in order



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses the first International Youth Congress in Amman (Petra photo)

for it to work, the whole world must address challenges.

"Politics where people matter" and reaching equity among nations, especially in Third World countries where many children still suffer and die from malnutrition and poor health conditions, are among these challenges, he said.

The Prince also discussed Jordan's role in the new world order, the importance of its geographic location and the obstacles and challenges facing it as a nation, especially after the influx of returnees from the Gulf.

Prince Hassan also called on rich and developed nations to adopt and apply a single criteria with regard to various issues related to migrations, the environment and armament. He spoke of the importance of peace in the region and

the restoration of the Palestinians' right of self-determination on their own homeland.

Dr. Kamal Salibi, an author and professor at the American University of Beirut, was invited as a guest speaker by His Royal Highness to address the congress. Dr. Salibi discussed the recent history of the region, outlining the different stages and political ideologies witnessed by the Arab World over the years.

"I am very glad to be here, it is very interesting," said Evon Alexander, a 17-year-old student from Germany. "I wanted to see what it is like and to know the situation in the Middle East in order to see where I stand in this conflict."

Another 17-year-old German student, Carolien Van Der Vliet, who lived in Israel for six years, said that she

participated in this conference in order to learn more about the Arabs' point of view.

"I think it was very strange to see that the name of Israel was omitted from the school atlas," she said. "I hope that this would help me see both sides of the story to enable me to make a judgement."

Also speaking in the opening sessions were Samia al Farra, the principal of the school, Mohammad Alayan, president of the Student Council who welcomed the visitors and students and expressed their appreciation for holding such a convention at this critical period in time. Nicholas Bowley, head of the Senior School, who helped the students organise this international event, also gave a speech thanking Their Royal Highnesses for patronising the event.

Despite problems, industrial sector grows 1.1 per cent in 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite the difficult circumstances facing Jordan in 1990, the industrial sector achieved satisfactory progress with 1.1 per cent growth in the gross domestic product and an increase of national industrial exports by 15 per cent to a total of JD 112 million according to a report issued by the Amman Chamber of Industry Sunday.

The Jordanian industry's contribution to the gross domestic product increased thanks to convertible industries, whose share was estimated at 8.7 per cent, mines and stone quarries 11.1 per cent and electricity and water 12.3 per cent, the report found. It said that the volume of industrial production last year re-

maintained at almost the same level as the previous year.

The report pointed out that the Amman Chamber of Industry was increasing its efforts to find solutions to the problems facing factories and industrial businesses technically and administratively. It said that the chamber has been organising seminars, enlisting assistance from Arab and foreign experts to promote national industry and also to stimulate exports and find new markets for Jordan's manufactured products abroad.

This endeavour, it said, was also assisted through the organisation of trade and industrial fairs in cooperation with the Jordanian Commercial Centres

Corporation (JCCC) at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The report expressed appreciation of the close cooperation between the government and the chamber for the settlement of industrial questions.

It was only a week ago when the Chamber of Industry reached a compromise with the Ministry of Finance over the introduction of the consumer tax, which brought about angry reactions from Jordanian industrialists. Through dialogue and intensive efforts on the part of the chamber, the issue is now settled following the arrival at a compromise settlement.

The chamber and the ministry agreed that factories will not pay

consumer tax if they had already paid duty on the primary goods and raw materials used in the manufacture of the products, thus avoiding dual taxation on the same commodity. Also, the Ministry of Finance will not post customs officials at the factories to monitor production.

According to a chamber statement Sunday, a total of 5,189 industrial businesses either renewed their subscription to the chamber or registered as members for the first time last year, up from 4,076 in 1989.

According to chamber sources, certain industries badly affected by the Gulf crisis during 1990 are now picking up again with orders coming in from new markets.

Conference to focus on fodder industry in Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — The fodder industry in the Arab World will come under scrutiny at a four-day conference which will open in Amman Monday with the participation of representatives from the ministries of industry, agriculture, supply and trade and other parties concerned with the fodder industry in the Arab World.

The conference, organised by the Arab Federation for Food Industries (AFFI) in cooperation with the ministries of supply and agriculture as well as the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), will be accompanied by a general exhibition displaying various equipment used in the fodder processing industry by Arab and foreign firms.

Subjects on the agenda include economic and technical aspects of the fodder processing industry, standards and specifications, production of fodder concentrates, modern trends in production techniques and plans adopted for promoting the industry in the Arab World.

The organisers said that non-traditional techniques in the fodder processing industry will also be taken up by participants, who also include delegates from Arab universities and Arab chambers of agriculture, industry and trade.

Several research and working papers are to be discussed at the conference, which is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein.

The organisers said that the conference was expected to issue a set of recommendations designed to boost the fodder industry.

Queen Noor opens new workshops at Ruseifa centre

RUSEIFA (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday opened new workshops at the Ruseifa Rehabilitation Centre, which is run by the Ministry of Social Development.

The Queen toured the different sections and new and old workshops and met with trainees and instructors.

Yassin Hudeib, the centre's director, briefed Queen Noor on the centre's development since its establishment in 1973. The old centre had only four workshops offering training to 14 handicapped persons in simple trades, but the workshops have now increased to 14, offering training to 150 male and female handicapped persons, he said.

The old workshops have been developed and improved with financial contributions from the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDA) according to the director.

He said that the trainees include those with hearing and physical disabilities who are trained in welding, wood work, auto mechanics, car body repair, upholstery, book binding, dress making, tricot and flower arrangement.

Apart from training, handicapped students receive medical, mental health and social services and training in fields which are near their abilities.

The centre, Mr. Hudeib added, has plans for a workshop to employ handicapped graduates, enabling them to sell their products, and will open a physiotherapy unit for the benefit of the trainees.

Unions call on Labour Ministry to address concerns

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Central Council of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) Khalil Abu Khurma Sunday called on the Labour Ministry to safeguard the rights of labourers, particularly at this time when unemployment rate is high.

He said that the aggravating unemployment problems and the summary dismissal of labourers from their jobs with private sector institutions warrant speedy action on the part of the GFTU and the Labour Ministry. He added that the ministry had a major role in defining the path which labour unions should follow at this particular time.

Mr. Abu Khurma blamed the failure of work institutions for the summary dismissal of workers. "Workers are paying the price for the failure of private sector institutions' management, which tries to conceal the genuine reasons of their failure," he said.

Mr. Abu Khurma cited the dispute between workers in the Jordan Tourism and Spa Complex Company and the company's management as an example of this trend being pursued by private sector institutions. The company has recently laid off a number of workers citing a reorganisation plan.

Mr. Khurma said that the GFTU has held several meetings with the company's management in a bid to settle the issue and restate the dismissed workers. But the company aborted the GFTU's efforts, considering it as an interference in the management of its business.

Mr. Abu Khurma warned that if the company failed to address the problem, then a strike would be carried out.

Official calls for balancing developmental projects with environmental concerns

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 12 Middle Eastern countries gathered in Amman Sunday for a five-day regional symposium to conduct an assessment on the effects of development projects on environmental health.

According to a spokesman for the Amman-based Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), which is affiliated to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the delegates will examine means to protect the environmental and human health

through international cooperation.

Dr. Mamoun Maabreh, head of the Health Care Department at the Health Ministry, who opened the seminar on behalf of Health Minister Aref Bataineh, stressed the government's keenness on boosting cooperation with the WHO and its regional agencies in environmental health affairs.

Dr. Maabreh referred to the growing utilisation of natural materials in the countries of the region in a manner that has increased the dangers to the environment and public health. He said that such utilisation was not coupled with an equal level of attention to the questions of the environment and the dumping of industrial waste has continued

unabated. Factories dumping waste in seas, rivers and lakes has endangered the environment and polluted air water and soil.

Dr. Hassan Baroudi, regional coordinator in health matters and programmes carried out by the WHO, read out a letter to the meeting by Dr. Hussein Jazairi, the WHO regional director in which he explained the organisation's projects.

Also outlined were the dangers resulting from the implementation of economic, social and industrial programmes without proper attention being given to safeguarding the environment.

Countries taking part in the meeting are Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Mohammad's Army prosecution to rest today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The last session in the trial of an 18-member group, so-called Mohammad's Army, is scheduled to be held at the State Security Court today.

The last session, which was last Monday, included the summation of the defence lawyers and lasted four hours because different lawyers represent different defendants.

In the upcoming session, the court prosecutor is expected to make his last statement before the court can issue its verdict.

He had presented his summation to the court in the previous session, providing evidence on the involvement of the various accomplices in alleged terrorist action, including the attempt to change the country's constitution by force, to assassinate a number of prominent personalities and to carry out a series of acts of terrorism.

National Music Conservatory: Promoting culture in Jordan

AMMAN — Concert and recital attendance is considered a cultural practice for only the elite.

The National Music Conservatory of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with cultural centres based in Jordan, tries to regularly provide distinct musical events in all genres for all ages.

In sponsoring these events, the Conservatory hopes to achieve two objectives: 1) to nourish the cultural dimension in every member of the audience, 2) to increase the number of concerts and recitals with high artistic standards. Your attendances, interest and support of these events will help reach these objectives.

Among the major concerts

and recitals coming soon to Amman are the following:

Wednesday, Nov. 27: A French piano duo recital featuring four of Mozart's Sonatas.

Thursday, Nov. 28: A cello and piano recital. In the programme pieces by Mozart, Beethoven and R. Strauss.

Sunday, Dec. 1: The Academy for Old Music/Berlin, an 18-member orchestra. In the programme an overture, a concerto and two symphonies.

Thursday, Dec. 3: An Australian pianist playing Chopin, Liszt and others.

For further information, watch for the advertisements of the National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620



EXHIBIT OPENING — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday opens an exhibition organised by the Scandinavian Ladies in Amman. The day-long exhibition, held at the Marriott Hotel, includes embroideries, Scandinavian food

and products from the five Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. Proceeds from the exhibition will go to charity work in Jordan (Petra photo)

Seminar on water resources opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on water resources in the Middle East will open at the Jerusalem Hotel today with the participation of nine Middle Eastern countries, including Jordan.

Topics on the agenda include the water resources of the region, studies on the needs of each of the participating countries, diagnosis of the water problems,

analysis of plans to deal with the water shortage issue and future prospects, according to the Amman based Middle East Studies Centre, which is organising the meeting.

The two-day seminar, they said, will review working papers submitted by the delegates of the nine countries: Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Egypt, Tur-

key, Saudi Arabia and Iran in addition to experts concerned with the weather situation in the region.

According to the organisers, the participants will be taken on tours of the Jordan Valley region and the King Talal Dam as well as other water projects in the Kingdom.

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN TENDER NO. (83/91)

The University of Jordan invites tenders for the supply of language laboratory equipment and visual aids to the Language Centre of the University of Jordan. This project is to be financed by the Government of Japan's Cultural Grant allocated to the Language Centre of the University of Jordan. Interested Japanese firms or their agents qualified to tender for the above project are requested to take into account the following:

1. Specifications and conditions of the above equipment are available free of charge from the secretary of the Central Tenders Committee to interested bidders holding a valid trade licence.
2. Offers are submitted on triplicate (1 original and 2 copies; each copy in a separate envelope).
3. A cash fund guarantee or an endorsed cheque of 5% value of each offer should be attached and submitted in a separate envelope.
4. A sealed envelope containing the four envelopes and carrying the name and address of the bidding firm should be placed in the tender box at the Administration Building / Central Tenders Committee at a date not later than 4:00 p.m. on 8th Dec. 1991, and will be opened the following day at 12:00 a.m.
5. Offers not satisfying these conditions will be turned down.

Chairman
Central Tenders Committee



اعلان صادر عن
الجامعة الأردنية
عطا رقم ٩١/٨٣

تعلن الجامعة الأردنية عن طرح العطاء رقم (٩١/٨٣) الخاص بالجهزة ومعدات ووسائل سمعية وبصرية لمركز اللغات في الجامعة الأردنية.

وسيعمل هذا العطاء من منحة الحكومة اليابانية لمركز اللغات في الجامعة الأردنية.

فصل المؤسسات أو الشركات اليابانية أو ولائها والراغبين في الاشتراك في هذا العطاء مراعاة لميل:

أولاً: مراجعة أمين سر لجنة العطاءات المركزية بمبنى إدارة الجامعة/ لجنة العطاءات المركزية مصطحبين معهم رخصة من سلطة المفعول. تسلم الشروط والمواصفات مجاناً.

ثانياً: تقديم العروض على ثلاث نسخ (أصلية + صوريين) وتوضع كل نسخة في ملف منفصل.

ثالثاً: يرفق بالعروض ثلاثة مبالغ أو شيك مصدق بقيمة ٥ % من قيمة كل عرض وتوضع في ملف منفصل.

رابعاً: توضع الملفات الأربعة في ملف واحد مختم ويكتب عليه اسم وعنوان الشركة ويوضع في صندوق العطاءات بمبنى إدارة الجامعة/ لجنة العطاءات المركزية في موعد اقضاء الساعة الرابعة مساءً ٩١/١٢/٨ وستفتح العروض الساعة الثامنة عشرة ظهر يوم الإثنين الموافق ٩١/١٢/٩

خامساً: سوف يهمل كل عرض غير مستوف لهذه الشروط رئيس لجنة العطاءات المركزية

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Send resume with fee requirements by Dec. 1 to:
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IRD/Macro International Inc.
c/o IE Dept. Fac. of Engineering & Technology
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
 ١٩٧٥
 Jordan Times is a daily newspaper published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667111/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Weekly Political Pulse

New government boosts confidence in democracy

By Waleed Sadi

IS democracy in Jordan as reflected in the current Lower House of Parliament floundering? This is certainly a legitimate question in view of at least four manifestations of such faltering which in their cumulative sense may suggest that the recent democratisation process in the country has faced some serious setbacks. It all began with the sidestepping of the Lower House of Parliament on the occasion of the adoption of the National Charter back in June of 1991. It was certainly no small token of lingering reservation on Parliament when it was bypassed during the articulation and adoption of the Charter.

Going over the heads of the democratically elected parliamentarians on such a critical and solemn occasion may have been a clear signal that all is not well with the existing Lower House and the shade of democracy that it had revealed. Yet on that score alone, there were indeed pressing and persuasive reasons to "ignore" Parliament since its composition was in essence determined by archaic rules and regulations that the charter aimed to redress. It was inconceivable, therefore, that the very members of Parliament who were the direct beneficiaries of the old guidelines would consent to corrective measures that may mean the lessening of the chances of their reelection in the future.

On that basis, the stage was indeed set to sidestep Parliament with impunity since the purpose was the formulation of new guidelines for the practice of parliamentary democracy in the country. However, had the country stopped there, the bypassing of Parliament would have been indeed benign and justified. But the process of overriding it went on as if suggesting that the problem with the incumbent Parliament is indeed deeper than thought at the beginning. The best evidence of this was the occasion of convening another national congress in October of this year to endorse the peace process in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy. Under normal circumstances, the appropriate venue for debating the issues of war and peace

would have been Parliament itself since its composition is drawn from the elected representatives of the people. Yet, the choice was to hold another assembly of personalities carefully chosen but not democratically elected to deliberate on issues that are far-reaching and consequential for the entire Kingdom. The deliberate bypassing of Parliament on such a second solemn occasion thus came on the heels of the earlier opportunity to side step it.

In this sense, this second round of "foresaking" Parliament reinforced the earlier impression that all is not well with it or with the relationship between the executive and the legislative branches of government. In other words, had the first occasion to bypass Parliament been an isolated one, the differences between the two branches of government would have been contained and rendered explainable. But with the advent of yet another opportunity to let go of the Lower House, there grew ominous developments suggesting that the problem is anything but benign and may be indeed cancerous. And cancerous it was at least for a while. The proof of this came when the trend of "circumventing" Parliament entered a third stage. This was given expression when Parliament was given a "vacation" at a time when the peace process that aimed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts was just about to be launched. It was clearly no accident, therefore, that the timing of this suspension of parliamentary life came on the eve of the Madrid peace conference that brought Arab and Israeli delegations face to face for the first time in a long time.

The straw that may have broken the back of the present Parliament may have come when former Prime Minister Taber Masri's government lost parliamentary support over reasons more connected with the distribution of limited cabinet portfolios on the proliferating Cabinet post-seekers than with substantive issues facing the country. This did not augur well for the prestige and stature of the parliamentarians who had put personal political

gains over public wheel.

Yet the formation of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government Thursday came to erase all the negative presumptions that democracy in Jordan even as revealed in the present Lower House is floundering. Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government came to reaffirm the commitment of the country to the continuation of the democratic process and to confirm, beyond a shadow of doubt, that democracy in Jordan is, indeed alive and kicking. To begin with, the Royal letter of designation to Sharif Zeid was overwhelmingly supportive of the democratisation trend in the Kingdom and dispelled any doubts about the faithful adherence of the nation to parliamentary democracy.

In calling on the new prime minister to get on with the task of adopting a new election law on the formation of political parties, His Majesty King Hussein made it unequivocally clear that pluralistic democracy is here to stay and it is going to be the mainstay of Jordanian democracy come what may. Moreover, the composition of the new Cabinet also reinforced the faith and trust in the incumbent Parliament as it is presently constituted.

The appointment of 10 members of the Cabinet from Parliament on the heels of Mr. Masri's insurmountable difficulties with the Lower House was an article of faith in the ability of the executive and legislative branches of government to forge once again a working relationship between them. Still, the adoption of legislations on political parties and election guidelines would create new conditions in the country that sooner or later would necessitate, new elections. But given the fact that the elaboration of such pivotal legislations would require much time, the stage cannot be set for new elections until such time when new ground rules for democracy have become ready. In this sense, new elections are at least a year and a half away. Till then, the two branches of government will have to learn not only to coexist peacefully as possible, but also as constructively as necessary.

Invitation bears message

WASHINGTON'S decision to issue invitations to the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to attend the second round of bilateral negotiations in Washington on Dec. 4 without prior clearance from Israel and the Arabs may have been intended to drive home the point that the U.S. will call the shots if necessary to advance the peace process. Reports from Tel Aviv describe the Israeli government as flabbergasted by the sudden news that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had sent the invitations without waiting for a prior Israeli response and by the way the invitation was made protocol-wise. As can be judged from the letters of invitations dispatched to the various parties, the U.S. government waited long enough for the parties to agree on the venue and timing of the second stage peace talks and decided to make a unilateral decision to name the place and time of these parleys after giving up on the parties to agree on them among themselves. There is no doubt that Israel and Israel alone was responsible for the stalemate on determining the location and date of the talks by blocking one option after the other and insisting on its own definition of an appropriate site for the negotiations. In so doing, we like to think that the U.S. is sending a clear signal to Israel in general and to its Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in particular that the Bush administration is determined to see through the ongoing peace process and that Israel's delaying or derailing tactics will not be tolerated. In thinking in those terms, there should be a growing sense of optimism among the Arab parties which have advocated all along a stronger presence and clout for the host countries in the current peace efforts to settle once and for all the Palestinian problem and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy as pronounced by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Undoubtedly, Israel, in the final analysis, will acquiesce to the U.S. invitations because it cannot afford not to. What Shamir will probably try to do now is extract some concessions and exact a sizable price in return for his reluctant agreement to the invitation insinuating that he has made great sacrifices in going along with the terms and conditions of the Baker invitation. It must be recalled in this vein, that Israel got most of its conditions met on the modalities of the first round of negotiations. Having succeeded in imposing its conditions on the first stage of talks, Israel may have the erroneous impression that it can succeed once again in insisting on its own terms for conducting the coming peace talks.

To pre-empt Israel, it is only right on our part to respond favourably to the invitation, even though we have to learn to deal differently with the price tag involved. That in itself shows the real stand of Jordan on the peace process. Once a decision was taken to wage peace, no effort must be spared to facilitate the success of the peace efforts especially when it is based on the strong rock of international legitimacy and justice. It is no accident that the Palestinians have been equally warm to the invitation and by being positive they have also amply demonstrated once again that they are totally committed to the current peace process. No doubt Israel will be the last to reply to the call for the resumption of the talks and in so doing it will have demonstrated once again that it is a reluctant party to the quest for peace in the Middle East. Under no circumstances, however, should it be allowed to get away with its dangerous games and procrastination, especially that the Americans have a most potent weapon in furnishing or withholding the \$10 billion loan guarantees. In the end, the spoiled child has to learn discipline; otherwise, things might get out of hand and not only one party will pay the price for it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday commented on the prime minister's statement at the first Cabinet meeting in which he stressed the government's intention to go ahead with plans to bring into being laws on political parties and to tackle the chronic economic questions facing Jordan. In its first meeting, the Cabinet pledged to take action and deal effectively with domestic issues and to pursue the peace process with all its might, said Al Ra'i. The paper noted with satisfaction the new government's determination to enhance the process of democracy and protect public freedoms, and also to deal immediately and seriously with such questions as poverty, unemployment and poor public administration performance. It said that by giving these issues priority on the agenda, the government was bound to address difficulties and given resolve and determination, it will no doubt achieve good results. The paper also noted with satisfaction the new government's determination to move ahead towards ending differences with other Arab states and its plans to pursue the peace process and uphold the Palestinian people's rights. It said that through fruitful cooperation with the legislative authority all these important issues can be settled, thus safeguarding the higher national interests.

IT SEEMS that Israel has reconsidered its position and stopped rejecting the demands and directions of the U.S. administration, said Sawt Al Shaab daily. The paper said that in his meeting with the U.S. president, Prime Minister Shamir could not refuse the American demand of resuming the peace negotiations in Washington on Dec. 4, though he did that reluctantly. His acceptance of the venue for the negotiations conflicted with the total refusal displayed by the Israeli government earlier when Tel Aviv had demanded that the negotiations should be held in the Middle East, the paper said. This does not mean that the Israelis have lost their influence on the Bush administration, but it indicates that Israel has at least lost some of its political credibility, the paper said.

By Mohammad I. Ayish

LONG before the convening of the Madrid peace conference in Madrid, the general impression among many delegates, media people and even laymen had been that the historic gathering would always be remembered as no more than a ceremonial occasion marking first-time direct Arab-Israeli encounters since the Camp David accords. Although the conference was indeed meant to be ceremonial, with no enforceable powers, the highly conspicuous news media presence at the conference site and the skillful use of the occasion as a platform for airing long suppressed national Palestinian aspirations to worldwide audiences have transformed the parley into a media hoopla rarely witnessed in such international events. Aware of the public relations value of the conference, Arab and Israeli participants seemed to be talking to audiences in the U.S., the world and their own constituencies, far more than to each other, as one reporter observed.

The mere attendance of the conference by Arab delegates and their Israeli counterparts has been viewed as a historic breakthrough that is certain to open up new horizons for the U.S.-sponsored peace process in the Middle East.

However, among the Arab delegations, it was the Palestinian negotiating team that seemed to have risen into prominence, gaining worldwide acclaim as its members strove to win the hearts and minds of millions in the West which until recently has conceived of Palestinians as virtually non-existent. What filtered through the iron curtain of the Israeli propaganda machine in North America and Western Europe were only stereotypes of Palestinians as backward, terrorist and anti-Semitic.

The spectacular performance put up by Palestinian spokespersons and delegates such as Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi was bound to contribute to breaking up those stereotypes, at least on the long run. A moral victory was badly needed by the Palestinians, before embarking on bilateral talks with the Israelis, and they seemed to have won it in Madrid.

When one thinks of the "Madrid phenomenon" in which diplomacy and media joined forces to generate a Palestinian public relations victory, three factors come into play. These factors include a highly-Promethean Palestinian negotiating team; a conveniently-accessible huge pool of international media channels and an evolving global peace-oriented environment. The realisation of these three components seems to epitomise a genuine communication act unattainable by Palestinian through their 50-year long strife to carve out a respectable niche for themselves in modern history.

In the past, for many Westerners, Palestinians might have had a morally-valid message rooted in international legitimacy with articulate sources to deliver it. Yet, they lacked the channels to convey that message to target audiences. There was a time, perhaps, when the Palestinians commanded both good messages, sources and media channels, but were frustrated by the spill-over effects of competitive cold war politics which seemed to have obfuscated

audience receptivity to and interpretation of messages, especially when a ruthless Israeli propaganda machine was in control of people's daily information intakes in North America and Western Europe.

The communicator and the message

The selection of the Palestinian delegation seems to be based largely on communication capabilities (language, style, demeanor and even gender) to ensure that the message would get through. Palestinians' desire to address public opinion in the West from such big international forum was reflected in the use of English as a language of the Palestinian speech delivered on the second day of the conference.

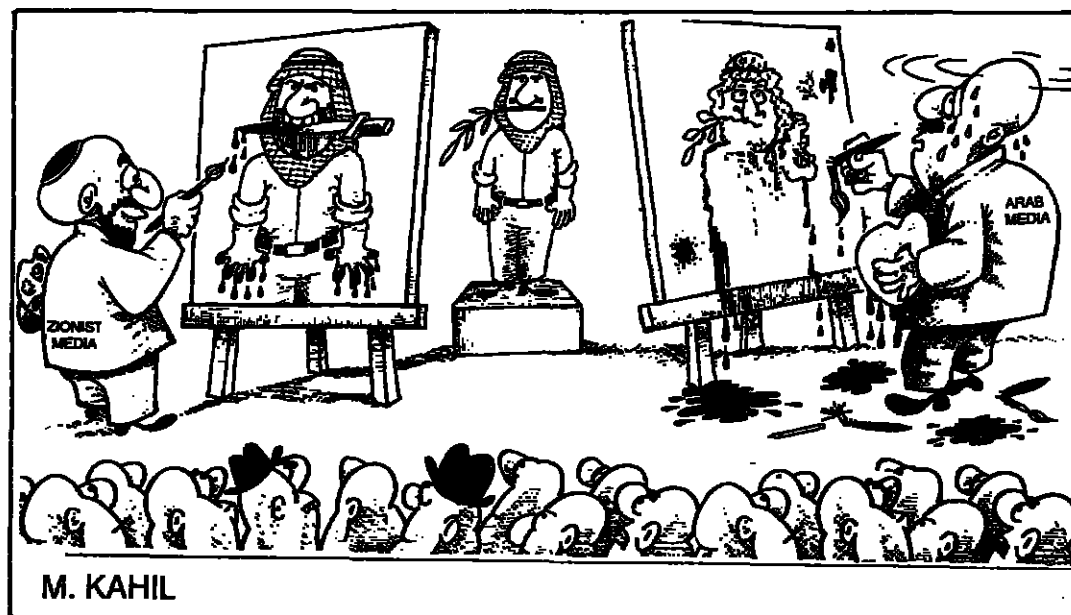
Sources close to the Palestinian delegation pointed out that some debate had arisen over this matter before it was agreed that English should be used, with a short introduction in Arabic. It was also reported that contributors to the text of the speech included Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, FLO advisors Nabil Shaath and Faisal Hussein, in addition to the head of the Palestinian delegation who gave the speech, Dr. Abdul Shafi.

The speech itself has drastically drifted away from traditional Palestinian rhetoric familiar to us over the past 40 years. Flamboyant statements attacking the enemy have been replaced by more moderate and humanitarian appeals for peace, and explosive hyperbole has given way to words reflecting a sense of political confidence and maturity. With an eye on the evolving global developments, the Palestinian speech has capitalised on elements underlying the new world order which emphasise the peaceful settlement of conflicts, abidance by the rules of international legitimacy and the rights of people everywhere to determine their future political systems. What these rhetorical approaches have achieved in tremendous: they seemed to reveal to the international community that the "Palestinians are human beings with political rights and were not merely "an accident of history."

The magic of the Palestinian rhetoric during the three-day conference obviously could not have been so effective had it not been for the startling consistency of Arab messages in general and for the anachronistic nature of the speech delivered by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Coordination among the Arab delegates to the conference provided the Palestinian communicators with a back-up reservoir of information that complimented their position, though at times, some of the Arab delegates' rhetoric was bordering on themes of the foregone era.

Heads of Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian delegations as well as spokesmen spoke almost the same language at the conference; we want a durable, just and comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and recognition of the Palestinian rights to self-determination. The frequent use of the catchy phrase "land for peace" as a basis for any solution seems to have enabled audiences to acquire a short-hand, though a significant, understanding of the issue underlying the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the other hand, the Israeli



speech delivered by Mr. Shamir himself, seemed to lack a genuine sense of realism and compromise exhibited by Arab speeches. Unlike those of the Arabs' rhetoric, the central themes of the Israelis' were rooted in obsolete tenets of history that are no longer tenable. By reiterating the traditional accusations against Syria as a breeding ground of international terrorism and by invoking Biblical references to "Eretz Israel," Mr. Shamir appeared to be too vulnerable to fend off the negative attitudes generated by the circulation of a British mandate "Wanted" advertisement showing him as a terrorist. Mr. Shamir's frequent attempts to win world sympathy through references to alleged Biblical Israeli rights to the Holy Land could not also withstand the simple human-oriented and legitimacy-grounded approaches of Arab and Palestinian spokesmen regarding the future of the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights and that of the Palestinians as a people. Mr. Shamir's anachronism was never a match for the forward-looking Arab posture at the conference.

Yet, regardless of the appealing nature of the Palestinian rhetoric and the alienating approach underlying Israeli speeches and statements, the Palestinian message of peace, justice and human recognition could not have been made so sharp had it not been for a team of skilled men and women who proved to be effective communicators before being maverick diplomats. Diplomacy, after all, is intrinsically an art of communication.

The inclusion of competent academic and professional members such as Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi and Mamdouh Al Eker seems to underscore Palestinian keenness on bypassing past pitfalls associated with inarticulate messages communicated to foreign audiences.

Dr. Ashrawi has been described as confidently giving events a Palestinian perspective, "with greater authority than before." Dr. Abdul Shafi, with his credible and dignified demeanor aroused an impression of comfort on the part of audiences as he appeared on television screens. He seems to reverse many of the traditional images associated with Palestinians. More or less, all Palestinian spokesmen demonstrated a superb competency in English.

Extensive media channels

The Middle East peace conference in Madrid attracted perhaps the biggest crowd of media people from around the world in recent years. One reporter described the conference as a virtually news factory-farm with a captive audience of newsmen breeding headlines and quotes, devouring space and time on the world's electronic and print channels. Media reporting of the conference reached its peaks in live television and radio transmissions of speeches, press conferences and news briefings and interviews. Most of the live coverage was relayed by American Cable News Network (CNN) which has worldwide audiences in addition to its domestic subscribers in the United States.

The news value embodied in such event is that it is a historic occasion unprecedented in the 40-year history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The direct involvement of the United States and of President George Bush personally in making this event come true this perhaps given more newsworthiness to it. The conference, after all, was a media event augmented by intensive media reporting of its sessions and other activities. This fact, fully clear to participants from Israeli and Arab sides, has prompted both parties to mobilise their maximum resources to utilise the occasion to serve their interests. In many respects, media channels and negotiators shared a relationship of mutual benefits by which the former would be provided with newsworthy information in exchange for making such information accessible to millions of audiences in different countries. This symbiotic relationship appeared to have worked best for the Palestinian delegation as other teams already have access to national and international channels by virtue of their association with sovereign states.

The mere availability of media channels may not necessarily mean a genuinely objective and accurate communication of Palestinian views and positions. Zionist controls on media outlets in the United States could have served to distort Palestinian statements through out-of-context quotes, sound bites and radio actualities or through the selective transmission of information as U.S. communication scholar Michael Emery pointed out in a recent article published in this paper.

Because media attempts at distortion are still rather hypothetical, a systematic investigation of patterns of peace conference coverage is crucial for making scientific statements on the issue. The changing nature of the Palestinian political rhetoric may

have caused traditional Israeli media outlets to take a balanced approach to the parley. Again, this should be tackled in the context of a content analysis study of the coverage. What matters here is that regardless of how biased media were, the fact that the Palestinians were there at the conference representing "a nation under duress," as Dr. Ashrawi put it, and the fact that they exhibited political rationality and wonderful communication capabilities, seemed to have made it difficult for media of different political leanings to obfuscate their newly-emerging images.

The new international environment

The speed and volume of global changes over the past five years are stunning. Those years have not seen only the crumbling of a far-flung Soviet empire and the recession of Communism as an international ideology, but have also marked the diminution of "Arabism" as a glamorous unifying concept in the Arab World following the Gulf war. These changes have brought the United States on top of the world as the sole superpower. The dwindling role of the Soviet Union has been cruelly described by an American official who said the USSR is "a country that exists only outside its borders." American power worldwide has become virtually unrivalled, and this global monopoly has formed the backbone of the new world order.

The main tenets of this order emphasise peaceful coexistence, abidance by international law, democratisation of political and economic life and the non-admissibility of acquisition of others' land by force. It is under the umbrella of these principles that Iraq was driven out of Kuwait, placed under siege and transformed into an international pariah.

In the midst of these changes, any attempt on the part of the Palestinian to maintain old images was tantamount to national suicide. Seizing on the opportunity presented by those sweeping international changes, Palestinians projected a profound sense of maturity and realism. They have in fact found the principles underlying those trends rather appealing. Every bit of those principles theoretically seems to feed into the fulfillment of long-sought Palestinian aspirations: implementation of U.N. resolutions, the non-admissibility of acquisition of territory by force, no-double standards and people's rights to self-determination. Some of these principles have already been put into practice

before the Palestinian's eyes. Iraq was driven out of Kuwait, harshly-punished for its act; the Baltic Republics gained their independence after years of Soviet hegemony; many totalitarian systems underwent democratic changes and regional conflicts like those in Cambodia and Afghanistan are being resolved through negotiations.

Although the Palestinians and the Arabs believe that the conflict with Israel represents a highly-exceptional case that does not bear many similarities with other conflicts around the world, they still see that the new world setting embodies quite a few encouraging elements harmonious with their positions. Backed up by scores of U.N. resolutions, American promises for adopting one standard dealing with the Middle East conflict, a deep conviction in the equity of their cause, and more importantly, a four-year long outcry of Palestinian infidelity, the Palestinians decided to navigate the stormy water of peace.

Although the Madrid peace conference was a ceremonial gathering held in the midst of a media-rich setting, it was seen as a forum for addressing ruling elites and public opinion in the world in general and in the West in particular. This approach is underpinned by belief in the role of public opinion in Western societies in foreign policy decision-making. A well-informed public opinion on the Palestinians is likely to generate more favourable foreign policies on the issue.

Addressing Western public opinion was apparently conceived as the Palestinian speech was being drafted. The use of English as a language of the speech and the inclusion of highly-competent delegates capable of communicating with Western audiences gives credence to the notion that the battle in Madrid was for winning the hearts and minds of people around the world rather than for enabling adversaries to talk to each other. For Palestinians, why not do it as the Israeli propaganda machine has long had an influential bearing on Western public opinion? The new Palestinian approach to communicating with Western audiences is bound to break up that monopoly as long as it is based on facts rather than on unfounded claims.

Because it is rather difficult to make statements about how the mild Palestinian rhetoric was perceived among audiences around the world, survey studies based on good sampling techniques could yield interesting results on the matter. Investigation into the potential effects of Palestinian and Arab speeches, statements and press briefings may seek to gather data on the volume of information gained by audiences on the issue as well as on attitudes and behaviours related to their roles in shaping their countries' policies toward the Middle East. After all, Arab and Palestinian delegations did not go to Madrid just to wage a public relations war for its own sake, but to pave the way for tangible actions on the ground, leading to the attainment of their rights. So far, in this respect, the Arab negotiating teams seem to be moving on the right track.

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The enchanting world of children's book

By Kerstin Pudelko-Wienke

BONN — "Reading is the source of childhood," J.J. Rousseau stated in 1762 in *Emile*, his trailblazing "roman éducatif". Children should be bored with books as late as possible; they should be taught about nature and given instruction in manual skills, and allowed their freedom and joy of movement "otherwise we shall have young doctors and old children." It was at that time that the endless debate on the suitability of books for children began; the argument about suitable subject matter, ideas and didactics which has lasted to the present day. There were hardly any books written specifically for children, apart from textbooks, primers on morals and manners, and catechisms.

For centuries, European children had been treated like miniature versions of the human species who were capable of improvement; they were to be tamed and drilled at an early stage according to adult norms. It was the perspicacity of the rationalists in regard to children's ideas and interests that first brought about literature for children in Europe — literature which has since reached immense proportions. With some 120,000 children's books, the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek, Berlin, boasts the major collection of such books in the world; it includes 35,000 volumes in 67 languages from 76 different countries, 42,000 children's books in the German language and 43,000 bibliophile gems printed between the 16th century and 1945. Since 1951, the children's book department at the former Preußische Staatsbibliothek Unter den Linden has been systematically developed as a model collection by East Berlin librarians.

A superb selection of these

books was exhibited by the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK) in its Bonn premises; next year it will be on show in Berlin and other cities. Like the pan-German cultural landscape, the quiet book havens have also been set in motion since Oct. 3, 1990, German unification day. The Staatsbibliothek Ost (State Library East) has now been amalgamated with its West Berlin counterpart, which opened in its new building in the Potsdamer Straße in 1978, under the roof of the last Kaiser's era in Unter den Linden is undergoing complete redevelopment and brought into line with present-day technical standards, both libraries are being reorganised — no mean task with 1,000 members of staff and 12 million books.

The complete stock of modern literature and lending facilities are concentrated in the western library which was designed to provide efficient service from the start. The precious books from both libraries are to be housed in the renovated older building; a reference library where researchers can study priceless manuscripts, music scores, maps, rare printed works and the famous children's library. As a general rule, children's books were not considered worthy of collection; after all, public libraries are oriented towards scientific and economic progress. It was only a few decades ago that many large libraries in other countries began to make special collections of this nature.

It proved difficult and expensive to find old primers in good condition published from the 16th century onwards — but regularly tattered by young readers. There are charmingly illustrated spelling-books from A for Apple and B for Bear to Z for Zoo, such as J.H. Campe's *Bilder-Abecze* pub-

lished in 1807, and similarly attractive books from France and Italy. The initial reading fun was followed by more serious literature: Erasmus of Rotterdam's *Sittenbüchlein* in Latin (1537) is the prototype of the countless educational books which exhorted children to fulfil their duty, to have

good manners and to be pious. The folktales collected by Charles Perrault (1697), by Musäus (1804), the Grimm brothers (1812-15), and Hans Christian Andersen, are among the everlasting children's books. Etchers and painters embellished the popular fables of

Aesop and La Fontaine. Although Rousseau, in his time, criticised them for their morals, based on cunning and egotism, the kingdom of talking animals, just as it does in fairytales, now flickers daily across our TV screen, which has, to a great extent, taken over the instruction, entertainment and control of small children. Is the end of children's literature imminent, a relapse into illiteracy? It's quite conceivable and can be explained in part by the unattractive mass production of artless and vulgar children's books. This trend is being counteracted by non-fictional works, illustrated dictionaries

and encyclopedias which, ever since J.A. Comenius's *Orbis pictus* (1658), kindle the desire to learn about real facts in nature and society. A splendid example of such illustrated non-fiction is the book published by F.J. Bertuch in Weimar (1790).

Books for older children at the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek are also of interest because they clearly reflect the national education ideals and differing roles allocated to boys and girls respectively. The instrumentalisation of children's books for chauvinist, ideological or military purposes — which existed and still exist almost everywhere — is not re-

flected in the collection.

On the other hand, the prototypes of adventure and travel novels are splendidly represented — starting with Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) which — in its abbreviated and edited form by Campe in 1779 — became a classic and has been constantly reprinted and imitated ever since; it was Rousseau, moreover, who stimulated European predilection for "Robinsonades." Not least, we encounter such evergreens as *Struwwelpeter* (1845) and his imitations Max und Moritz (1865) as the precursors of American comics, English and Russian children's books, all beautifully illus-

trated in Art Nouveau style, children's detective stories, such as *Erich Kästner's Emil und die Detektive* (1930) and his pacifist fable *Die Konferenz der Tiere* (1950), based on an idea by Jella Lepmann. It was the latter who founded the International Jugendbibliothek (International Youth Library) in Schloß Blutenburg, near Munich, in 1948. The prestigious Institut für Jugendforschung (Youth Research Institute) in Frankfurt provides information on this subject with, inter alia, an excellent model collection. The article is reprinted from *Inter Nations Press*.



The title page of the novel *Robinson Crusoe*, published in 1745 (Photo INP Catalogue)

Shamir reverts to hardline positions

(Continued from page 1)

raise the issue of the loan guarantees during his Friday meeting with President George Bush. He said the entire discussion focused on the venue for the next round of peace talks.

However, when asked whether he would consider suspending the settlements in return for the loan guarantees, Mr. Shamir said, "We have a full right to build whatever we wish" on land "we say is ours."

Mr. Shamir said that President Bush refused what some analysts consider the Arab perception that the administration is inclined to support the establishment of a Palestinian state with part of Jerusalem as its capital. "The president told me this is not true ... if they think so they will have deep frustration."

Mr. Shamir said Israel's decision to accept Washington's invitation to talks in the U.S. would be announced following consultation with his cabinet.

However, he affirmed that the Middle East peace process which began last month in Madrid was still on track.

"We are interested in this process," he said "We want to go along with it."

He said Israel had logistical difficulties with the Washington venue and that was why he had to consult with his cabinet before announcing a decision.

The U.S. State Department

sent invitations early on Friday to Israel, Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to meet in Washington on Dec. 4.

In a speech to more than 1,000 Jewish supporters at a Manhattan synagogue on Saturday night, Mr. Shamir said, "We cannot possibly agree to partition Israel again."

"There is simply no room for two states in such a small area. That would be a formula for constant friction and conflict which we are doing our best to eliminate," he said.

In his speech, Mr. Shamir reiterated Israel's commitment to the absorption of more than 400,000 Jewish immigrants.

"That is our raison d'être," he said. "That is why the Jewish state was brought into being — to provide a home for the Jewish people, to provide a refuge for those feeling from danger."

Mr. Shamir had told reporters Friday after meeting Mr. Bush that Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were an understandable problem for the Arabs — a problem he was willing to discuss in the negotiations.

But Mr. Shamir reverted on Saturday to Israel's hardline approach regarding the settlements.

"Yes, from a security point of view, it makes a great deal of difference whether our country is 15 kilometres wide in parts or 70 kilometres wide.

"That is what is at stake, the security of Israel, the safety of our people," he said.

In the television interview he referred to the occupied territories as "land that belongs to us." Agencies add: In Israel, meanwhile cabinet ministers close to Mr. Shamir assailed the Bush administration's attitude and one columnist said Washington had again ruled in favour of the Arabs.

"I do not remember an Israeli prime minister even humiliated so bluntly and so roughly as was Shamir this time," columnist Yoel Marcus, normally a critic of the prime minister, wrote in Sunday's edition of the newspaper *Haaretz*.

"I must say with all my heart that for some time I have had doubts about the... good intentions of the United States," said Transport Minister Moshe Katzav, a close ally of Mr. Shamir.

The latest clash in Israeli-U.S. relations is over the second round of peace talks, with Israeli officials angry that President Bush invited the participants to Washington on Dec. 4 without first getting Israeli agreement.

"On a matter so serious, substantial in our lives, when we want to bring to an end so painful a chapter of 40 years of war, it's impossible to speak to us in terms of an ultimatum," Mr. Katzav said in what looked like a coordinated government attack.

Officially, Israel is still pressing

for talks in the region.

Despite the outcry, the U.S. announcement was no surprise. It had been anticipated ever since Israel rejected Madrid as the place for further direct negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

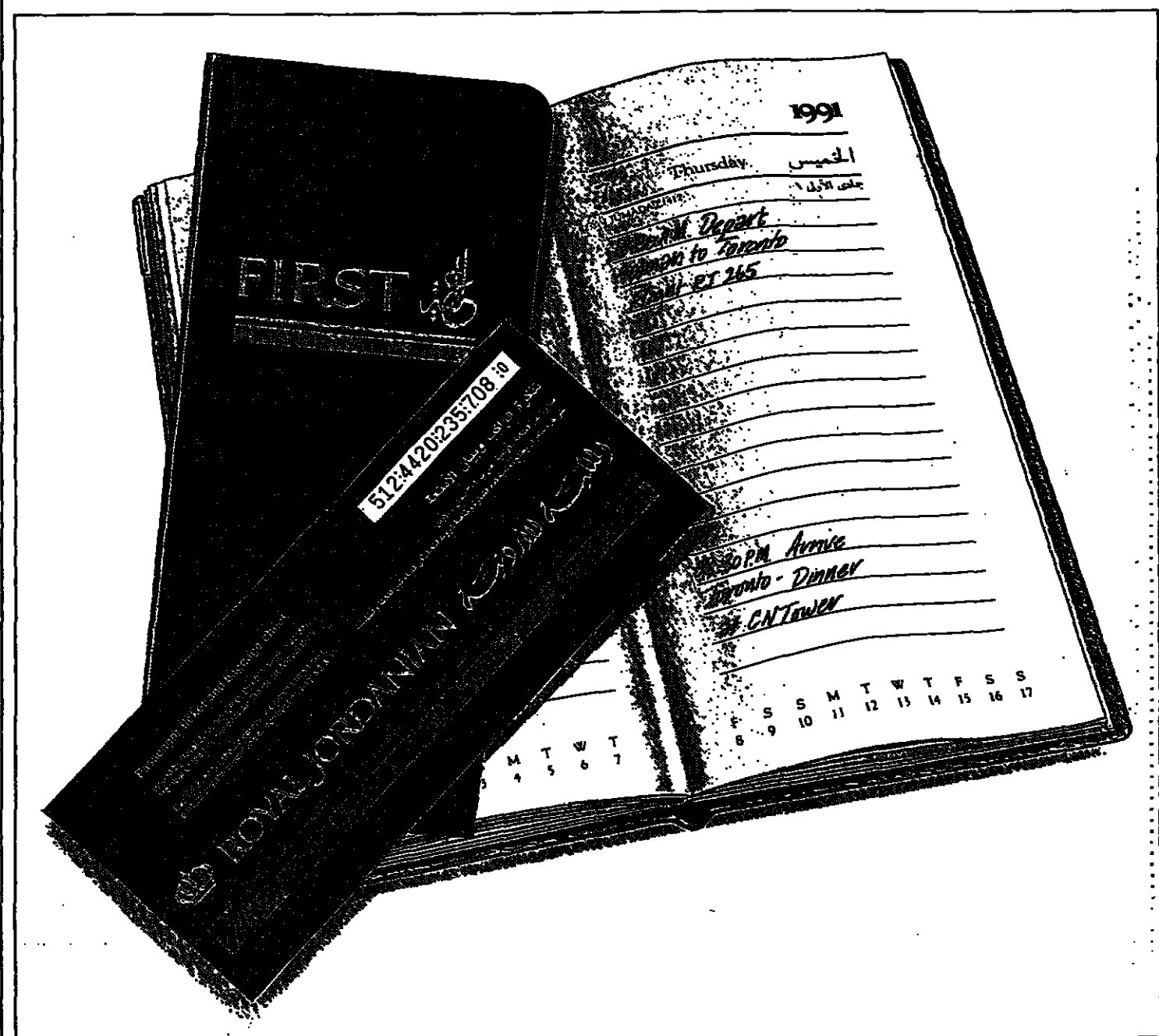
Washington warned then it would name the venue in two weeks if the participants had not reached agreement. There had been no indication of serious efforts to find a site — Israel had initially ruled out even Cyprus, the site it now favours.

Israelis say the United States and Israel no longer seem to share the same goals.

"There is no doubt at all we are speaking of an administration that doesn't try or pretend to show — even for appearances — some amount of friendship or an effort to coordinate as was common with other administrations," said Health Minister Ehud Olmert, another Shamir stalwart.

Mr. Shamir, never warmly received by Mr. Bush, had gone to the United States hoping to discuss both his views on a site for the talks and Israel's request for the \$10 billion, loan guarantees, which Mr. Bush postponed in September to force Mr. Shamir to attend the Madrid conference.

When Mr. Bush met Mr. Shamir last Friday, the invitations to talks in Washington had already gone out. Mr. Bush had also advised Mr. Shamir against raising the question of loan guarantees until next year.



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Holyfield survives unexpectedly strong challenge from Cooper

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — Under Holyfield's second heavyweight title defense, he was supposed to be just a work-out against a journeyman fighter. But it nearly cost the champion his title and \$30 million.

Holyfield almost lost his crown Saturday before a hometown crowd of nearly 13,000 when Bert Cooper sent him reeling along the ropes in the third round.

Only the ropes and an eight-count by the referee saved the undisputed champion.

But Holyfield roared back in the same round with a tremendous display of heart, turning on Cooper and raining 17 consecutive punches on him.

Holyfield, now 27-0, went on to stop the challenger in the seventh round after hitting him with 21 shots in succession to force referee Mills Lane to stop the scheduled 12-round fight at two minutes 58 seconds of the round.

The victory preserved hopes of a \$30 million fight against Mike Tyson. That fight hinges on the former champion's trial on rape charges which is scheduled to begin on Jan. 27.

Saturday's bout had been billed as "the homecoming" — Holyfield's first professional fight in his hometown.

But in a sense it was a homecoming for Cooper, the former drug abuser who was supposed to be a punchbag for the faster, more handsome, more glamorous and certainly richer champion.

Cooper came in from the cold as a fighter. He regained the respect he had lost so miserably two years ago when he quit on the stool against George Foreman.

After that it appeared Cooper, now 25, would for the rest of his career be just an opponent, a stepping stone for younger, more promising fighters.

But the challenger kept chugging after Holyfield. Cooper, sometimes smiling slightly through bloody lips, buried his head in the champion's chest. He was willing to take vicious uppers in close through his crossed arms for the chance to fire off a few punches of his own.

But perhaps taking on the fight with less than a week's notice and not sparring for the last two weeks kept him from being the new heavyweight champion.

Holyfield originally agreed to fight Tyson for \$30 million on Nov. 8 but a rib injury forced Tyson to pull out a month before-hand.

Holyfield then signed to fight light-hitting Italian Francesco Damiani Saturday. But Damiani also withdrew with an injury and Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, scrambled around for a replacement.

Holyfield and Cooper had words of praise for each other. "He fought his heart out and I have to commend him," said Holyfield, who earned about \$6 million for the fight.

"I just want to say one thing: He's still the champ," said Cooper, now 26-8. "I can't take any-

thing away from him."

Lewis stops Biggs

Meanwhile European heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis of Britain kept his unbeaten record intact by knocking down American Tyrrell Biggs three times in the third round Saturday.

Referee Frank Santore of the United States stepped in and stopped the fight at two minutes 47 seconds of the round, under the three-knockdown rule. That rule requires the fight stopped when one man goes down three times in a round.

Lewis dropped Biggs with a right cross the first time in the third round and after Biggs got up at the count of nine immediately decked him again with another right.

Biggs tried to cover up against the ropes, but spun into the middle of the ring and Lewis caught him again with a right hand to send the American sprawling.

Lewis won the first round handily, catching Biggs late in the round with two strong right hands to the head. Biggs did not take advantage of numerous opportunities to counter-punch the Briton.

Lewis opened up a cut on Biggs' lip and his nose began to bleed a bit in the second round.



Evander Holyfield

But Biggs landed more blows in the round than he had in the first round, catching Lewis with a good right uppercut and a left hook. But Lewis was not hurt.

In the third round, Biggs appeared to be weary from the earlier punches and Lewis moved in for the kill.

Lewis raised his record to 18-0 and Biggs dropped to 19-5.

Leeds beats Aston Villa 4-1 to move top of league

LONDON (R) — Leeds United moved back to the top of the English first division with an emphatic 4-1 win at Aston Villa Sunday.

Striker Lee Chapman scored two goals as Leeds overran fourth-placed Villa and climbed one point clear of Manchester United, who have a game in hand. United beat West Ham 2-1 Saturday.

Three goals in the space of 16 minutes either side of half-time

from Rod Wallace, Mel Sterland and Chapman secured Leeds' fourth away win of the season.

Wallace broke the deadlock in the 40th minute after both goalkeepers had made close-range saves. He tapped the ball into the net after keeper Les Sealey could only parry a thundering shot.

Defender Sterland shocked Villa with his fifth goal of the season in the opening minute of the second half and Chapman added the third in the 56th.

U.S. challenger Golden Pheasant wins Japan Cup

TOKYO (R) — Golden Pheasant, the lone U.S. challenger, burst into the lead down the final straight and held off fancied French filly Magic Night by 1½ lengths to win Sunday's Japan Cup.

Jockey Gary Stevens kept the 17-1 long shot in the pack until the final bend to save energy for his last spurt past the early pacesetter, home-trained outsider George Monarch.

"I was very confident when we came around the (final) corner," said Stevens, who held back Golden Pheasant, winner of last year's Arlington Million, until hitting the final straight and surging ahead.

Stevens said afterwards he was concerned about saving his

mount's energy for the last stretch.

"That was not a strategy. I was more concerned about the distance (1½ miles)," said Stevens.

With two furlongs to go, Stevens sent the five-year-old from the outside into the lead with the 5-1 chance Magic Night and Shafesbury Avenue, a 14-1 shot from Australia, challenging strongly on the inside.

But when Stevens asked the horse for more, he got it and held on to win.

"He (Golden Pheasant) was taking my lead on the stretch. In the last furlong, I urged him and he responded."

The victory was worth 156 million yen (\$1.2 million) for American owner Bruce McNali.

Seles crushes Sabatini to meet Navratilova in final

NEW YORK (R) — Top seed and defending champion Monica Seles overwhelmed third seed Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 6-1 Saturday to reach the final of the Virginia Slims Championships where she will face five-time winner Martina Navratilova.

With her crushing 47-minute semifinals victory in the \$3-million season finale, Seles completed an amazing streak by reaching 16 finals in 16 tournaments she has played this year.

Only Steffi Graf has gone through an entire year without losing prior to the final, accomplishing the feat in 1987 and again in 1989.

Earlier Saturday, Navratilova reached her 12th championships final by eliminating eighth seed Jana Novotna 6-1, 6-4 in 55 minutes. Novotna had upset second seed Graf to reach the semifinals.

The 35-year-old fourth seed, who last won this event in 1986, is now just one win shy of breaking the all-time titles mark of 157 she shares with retired star Chris Evert.

The 17-year-old Seles beat Navratilova decisively in this year's U.S. Open final.

But Navratilova has been playing her best tennis of the year since then. The nine-time Wimbledon champion, now in her fifth successive final, beat Seles in Oakland two weeks ago.

"Martina is in great form," said Seles, winner of nine titles this year, including the Australian, French and U.S. Opens. "It's just incredible when you think how old Martina is and she's playing so well."

Seles, who claimed to be fired after a tough win over Mary Joe Fernandez Friday, put on an awesome display in a match that was in no way reminiscent of the epic five-set struggle she won in last year's final against Sabatini.

A packed Madison Square Garden crowd, solidly behind the third seed, was unable to get Sabatini into the match.

The 21-year-old Argentine looked helpless for most of the one-sided affair as she watched balls whiz past her. And she was never able to break out the attacking game that brought her the U.S. Open crown last year.

"I didn't have a chance to come to the net. I couldn't do anything," said Sabatini, the 1988 winner who had looked extremely sharp in turning back the tour's other teen sensation, sixth-ranked Jennifer Capriati, in the quarters.

"It's been a long time since I lost like this," she said. "The way she played today, I don't think anyone could beat her."

Navratilova served extremely well for a set and a half and returned serve brilliantly throughout to subdue Novotna, this year's Australian Open runner-up.

She seized control of the net early and rarely allowed the Czechoslovak to get her serve and volley game going.

Navratilova won 12 of the first 13 points and led 4-0 before Novotna won her lone game of

the first set.

The fourth seed surrendered just three points on her serve in the opening set and began the second in similar fashion, holding at love twice and breaking Novotna in the second game for a 3-0 lead.

From 3-1 the last six games were all service breaks. But although Navratilova faltered from the service line, she continued to jump all over Novotna's delivery and broke her for the seventh time in the match to end it.

"I played so well in the first set, I had to come down a little," said Navratilova, who missed last year's tournament due to knee surgery. "In the second set I didn't have enough on my serve and she got grooved, but I returned great."

"I'm psyched to be in the final," the former world number one said.

Current number one Seles was asked what she would do in Sunday's best-of-five final to avoid a repeat of her Oakland defeat to Navratilova.

"I am not going to tell you that or Martina will read it in tomorrow's newspapers."

"It is the last match of the season so I am going to give all the energy that I have left in me," Seles promised.

After winning the 1990 U.S. Open for her first Grand Slam title and battling Seles through an electrifying five sets here, Sabatini got off to such a fast start in 1991 she seemed sure of ascending to the top of women's tennis.

She reached the Australian Open quarters, then won five of her next six tournaments with final-round victories over Seles, Graf and Navratilova — all players who have held the number one ranking she so desperately wants.

Her attacking game and topspin groundstrokes were working brilliantly and her confidence on court was growing with each match.

"The best memory I have is from Amelia Island and Rome. I think those are the most memorable matches that I had," she said of a straight sets Florida win over Graf and an even easier victory over Seles at the Italian Open.

After winning in Rome, Sabatini needed to reach a final and win a tournament in her next two outings — Berlin and the French Open — to capture the number one ranking.

She came up short, losing in the French Open semifinals to Seles, but still held more 1991 tournament titles than any of her rivals.

After losing the Wimbledon final to Graf despite twice serving for the championship, Sabatini went into a Tailspin.

She looked shaky throughout the defense of her U.S. Open title — bowing out to Jennifer Capriati in the quarters — and never reached another final.

"I'm pleased with my performance in 1991," Sabatini said after ending the year with a 62-11 record.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Till mid-afternoon positive aspects are in effect and practically everyone is trying to put their best foot forward, laying out their own ideas and viewpoints regardless of the interest of others.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The morning brings the need for you to balance work and your new ideas so you really accomplish and in the evening get off with charm for a happy time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) In the morning don't try to get out of paying that bill or you have some loss of face or credit, then later you can have a very happy romantic time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is that moment to make sure you do nothing to make a partner feel you do not want to be associated with him in interesting recreations.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever means the most to you should be worked on steadfastly in the morning after which you are able to have more enjoyment at the tasks you've agreed to do.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now find that you are the one who does value the good will of those who are deep in creative projects so do your part to perfect such.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take that time that is important to you and use it to do what

your family expects of you or that you would like your own quarters to be improved.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your time to show you are the one who does listen to what usual associates have to say in the morning without comment, then at night speak your peace.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you can think out and study the correct means by which to have more money in your pocket or bank account so get into these matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now are able to find the exact means by which to please your personal contacts in the morning, then do just the rest of the day.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate some highly original effort on your part can be studied in confidence at this time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to be so very, very social that you see many friends and make some new ones you meet with those you have known for a long time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now have the opportunity to organize your outside affairs this morning so that you will be able to put them in effect in the evening with much success.

THE BETTER HALF

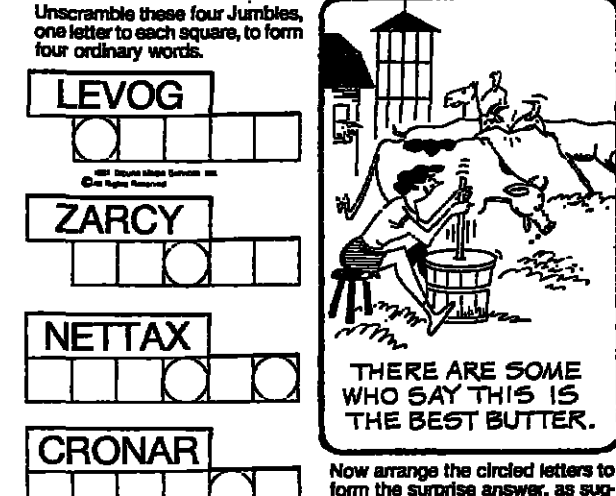
By Harris



"It's not flab! I'm so smart, God had to put my extra brains down here!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



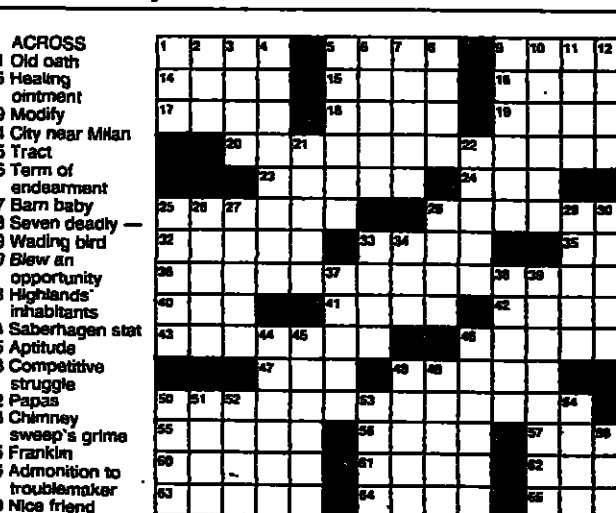
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TEASE ANNOY BUNKER CONCUR
Answer: That surgeon opened up the patient, and ended up by removing this—HIS BANK ACCOUNT

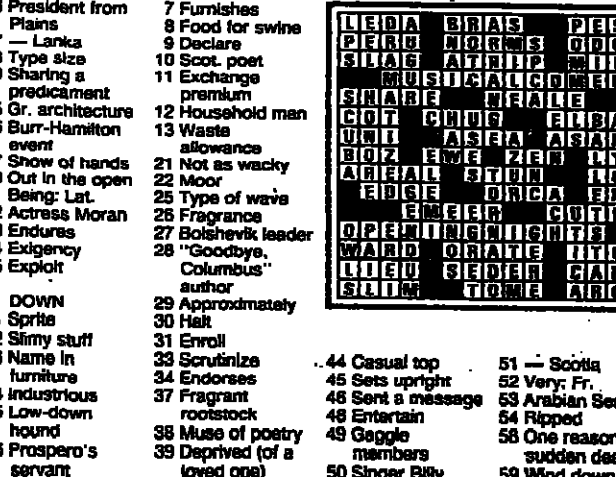
THE Daily Crossword

by Kenneth White



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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Those who previously applied, kindly refrain.

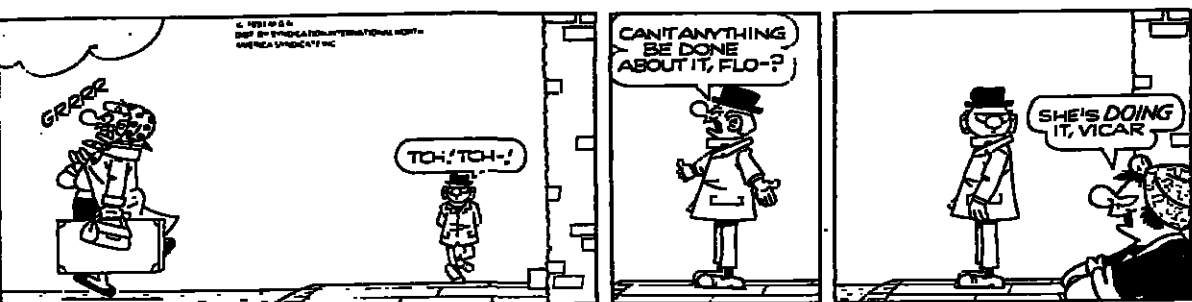
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 18-November 22, 1991)

AMMAN — Following the New York Stock Exchange mini crash on Friday Nov. 15th, the dollar tracked down developments in the Dow Jones Industrial average during last week's trading sessions. In addition, the accumulation of the negative factors prevalent last week further helped to produce a second unfavourable week for the dollar. The U.S. currency thus ended the week an average of 1.66 per cent lower against the major European currencies, but marginally higher against the yen.

Influenced by both the Dow Jones average and technical considerations, the U.S. unit declined Monday, but only marginally, in contrast with some expectations. The minor improvement in the Dow Jones Industrial average, added to the fact that the currency was oversold, helped to limit the dollar's downside. Speculation of a Bundesbank interest rate hike was further ignited by the Bank of France's surprising 0.5 per cent hike of its intervention rate, particularly taking into consideration that the Bank had just said rate by 0.25 less than a month ago. The U.S. currency thus ended at what was to be its highest closing levels of the week against major European currencies, closing at 1.6115 marks to the dollar and 1.7895 dollars to the pound sterling.

The dollar declined further Tuesday, mirroring another slide in the Dow Jones, and hurt by White House expectations that GNP growth would be limited to an annualised rate of 1.9 per cent in the fourth quarter, compared to 2.4 in the previous quarter. A rise in September's U.S. trade deficit to \$6.8 billion was reported to have had a minor impact on exchange rates. But while the dollar closed at its lowest levels for the week against the British pound at 1.7995 dollars to the pound sterling, it nevertheless closed at its highest against the yen at 129.83 yen to the dollar. The Japanese currency's weakness was attributed to expectation of a hike in German interest rates and a cut in Japanese rates.

The dollar rose briefly to a high 1.6065 marks in New York Wednesday, after a surprising 7.3 per cent rise in October's Housing Starts in the U.S. But the dollar soon fell back due to the overriding weakness of the U.S. economy, which was reinforced by comments from President Bush that the economy is "... unacceptably sluggish." The dollar was further harmed by the continuing strength of the mark, which benefited from speculation of a Bundesbank interest rate rise, and the G-7's offer of a credit facility in the form of a gold swap to the Soviet Republics, in view of the high exposure of German banks to the Soviet Union.

The dollar retreated further in New York towards the end of the week closing at its lowest levels of the week against major currencies Friday. Observers attributed this last decline, which contradicted expectations of a technical rebound, to the continued weakness of U.S. stock prices, and an unexpected jump of 39,000 in weekly jobless claims Thursday, which further enforced the case for a near term Fed interest rate cut. As the dollar's decline was concentrated against the mark, the German currency rose against both the British and Japanese units in view of the on-going expectations of a German interest rate hike. The mark thus ended the week at 81.67 yen to the mark and at 2.84 marks to the pound sterling, compared to 79.89 yen to the mark and 2.89 marks to the pound sterling at the end of the previous week.

As for this week, observers maintain that while the dollar might rise in a temporary technical correction Monday, a further decline to 1.52 marks in the next two weeks, was not ruled out.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	15/11/91	22/11/91	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.7850	1.7935	0.48%
Deutsche Mark	1.6190	1.5845	2.2%
Swiss Franc	1.4355	1.4105	1.77%
French Franc	5.5345	5.4165	2.18%
Japanese Yen	129.35	129.41	0.05%

USD Per 100

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	15/11/91	22/11/91	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	4.81	5.18	4.81	4.96		
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.25	10.50	10.50		
Deutsche Mark	8.93	9.25	9.12	9.37		
Swiss Franc	7.56	7.75	7.75	7.81		
French Franc	9.31	9.25	9.81	9.63		
Japanese Yen	6.28	5.65	6.25	5.68		

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 million dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 22/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.678	0.680
Sterling Pound	1.2147	1.2208
Deutsche Mark	0.4276	0.4297
Swiss Franc	0.4804	0.4828
French Franc	0.125	0.1256
Japanese Yen	0.5235	0.5261
Dutch Guilder	0.3792	0.3811
Swedish Krona	0.1155	0.1161
Italian Lira	0.0565	0.0568
Belgian Franc	0.02075	0.02085

Per 100

Government drags sterling pound into vicious circle

LONDON (R) — The pound sterling Friday sank to its lowest level in the European Community (EC) currency grid since it entered the system last year after October trade figures showed Britain was still deep in the red.

The government reported a current account balance of payments deficit of \$601 million (\$1.08 billion) against a revised gap of \$702 million (\$1.26 billion) in September.

The figures helped fuel fresh selling of the pound, which sank to just below 2.85 Deutsche marks, the lowest it has plunged since entering the EC currency exchange rate mechanism (ERM) in October last year.

Concern over the recession and a possible defeat of the ruling Conservatives in general elections next year had already put the pound under pressure. Sharp revisions Friday to previous monthly trade figures unnerved foreign exchange markets further.

The September current account deficit was revised up by £171 million (\$311 million).

Economists expressed disappointment that Britain was still running a relatively large trade deficit at a time when the economy was depressed. Economic downturns usually result in a

sharp drop in imports and a trade surplus.

Figures during November have shown flat manufacturing output and lower retail sales. A small rise in gross domestic product in the third quarter was explained away by a one-off jump in North Sea oil and gas production.

Meanwhile, the Conservatives are caught in a vicious circle. Their poor showing in opinion polls has weakened the pound but cutting interest rates to restore the party's popularity could batter the currency further.

Raising interest rates would do little to help the pound because public dissatisfaction over the subsequent hikes in mortgage payments would undermine the government's prospects of reelection — and consequently the strength of sterling, economists said.

The good news for the government Friday was that the mark's strength sent the Spanish peseta lower, which drops the pound's effective floor level in the ERM to around 2.8250 marks.

London stocks also had the jitters, with the pound's woes and falls on Wall Street worrying investors.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 top shares has fallen nearly 100 points since last week.

Ecuador begins devaluing sucre

QUITO, Ecuador (R) — The Ecuadorian government approved a 10 per cent devaluation of the sucre Friday and said the currency would be allowed to fall further.

The official exchange rate with the dollar, which had been 1,125 sucres to the dollar, was raised to around 1,250.

A government spokesman said that weekly "mini-devaluations" would begin Monday with another downward adjustment of about 3.5 sucres to the dollar.

Friday's action was taken as part of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund in which Ecuador is seeking \$120 million in credits.

The troubled Andean country has been trying for two years to strike an accord with creditors to resolve its mountain of foreign debt, now totalling \$13 billion.

The devaluation was the third this year.

A government statement said the devaluations have caused a 44 per cent drop against the dollar since the end of 1990.

The statement said the devaluation would help Ecuador increase its exports and "will not have a significant impact on the import sector" because it would be balanced by a recent decrease in import duties.

Developing nations point empty gun at rich world

TEHRAN (R) — Developing countries this weekend sent a defiant message to the United States and the European Community over international trade negotiations, but deep splits in Third World ranks reduced it to a hollow threat.

"We are just swimming in a sea of meaningless words," said a Latin American envoy to a Tehran conference at which the Third World was supposed to draw up a common stand ahead of February's full session of the U.N. conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The so-called Group of 77, which includes some of the planet's poorest nations, warned the rich world that it should not try to strike a deal Uruguay Round of trade talks behind the back of developing countries.

But after Latin American protests that the group had no business interfering in the complex negotiations being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the message was so watered down that it meant nothing.

The only way the five-day conference managed to secure a consensus and avoid a damaging split

was by adding a rider to its declaration on the Uruguay Round saying this "should not be seen as inhibiting (GATT) negotiators."

This effectively left the 128 nations of the Group of 77 — named for the number of original members — free to ignore it. The declaration on the Uruguay Round turned out to be the most contentious issue at the conference — with Latin American countries, South Korea and Romania leading resistance against an Indian-spearheaded drive to make UNCTAD the guardian of the Third World's interests at the GATT talks.

UNCTAD faces a deep identity crisis following the end of the cold war and industrialised countries are openly critical of its role as the main United Nations agency promoting the Third World's economic development.

Highly indebted, commodity-exporting countries in particular fear that after this month's U.S.-EC summit in the Hague about the Uruguay Round the bloc's two most powerful trading blocs will strike a deal and impose it on the rest of the international community.

The Tehran statement on the

Uruguay Round insisted that developing countries should be compensated if the liberalisation of world trade worsened their economic plight.

It said the developing countries would only decide on accepting the final deal once they had been given a proper chance to evaluate it and once any corrective measures the Third World deemed necessary had been introduced.

Many countries at the meeting, including some of those which opposed the Uruguay Round declaration, nevertheless expressed fears a less-fair international order may emerge now that the United States is the sole superpower.

"We want to be treated as full partners in building the new international order, not as minority shareholders," Colombian Ambassador Eduardo Mestre told a no-holds-barred meeting with representatives of the developed world.

"If our interests, human values and territorial integrity... are not taken into account, the new order will be used as a lever to make the rich richer and the poor poorer... this is not acceptable," said Iran's Commerce Minister Abolhossein Vahhaji.

New government in Turkey sparks stock exchange boom

ISTANBUL (R) — Bucking the world trend, Istanbul stocks are rocketing on hopes raised by Turkey's new government.

Shares have risen 38.2 per cent in the past two weeks.

Ignoring gloom in world stock markets, investors sent the 75-share market index to a four-month high of 3,755.46 at Friday's close, up nine per cent in 24 hours.

Even by Istanbul's volatile standards, the return to power of Suleyman Demirel has brought remarkable activity to an emerging exchange which has seen a revival in 1986.

Cash flooding into the market tripled last week's average daily trading volume to more than 300 billion lira (\$60.5 million) from the levels seen two weeks earlier. Dealers said the formation of a Demirel coalition, ending a month of post-election uncertainty,

had raised hopes of lower interest rates and a better investment climate.

Friday's frenzied buying was attributed to promises by State Minister Tansu Ciller, the woman now in charge of the economy, to keep the lira steady, tackle inflation and speed privatisation.

The coalition's approach has calmed market fears that it would devalue the lira. "We'll take new detailed measures that will boost the stock market," Ms. Ciller, a 45-year-old former economics professor, told Milliyet newspaper.

"We will not change foreign currency prices, they will remain at the current levels," she was quoted as saying.

"Tansu Ciller's remarks drove the market today," said dealer Nedim Kirli from private Esbank. But like other dealers, he voiced concern that the boom could be short-lived.

Most share prices opened Friday at the upper 10 per cent price limits, as on most days last week. They stayed there until the close, despite some mid-session profit-taking.

"My reaction to the economic programme is very positive. You can see from how the index is climbing that everyone thinks the same," said banker Husnu Ozye, in, owner of private Finansbank.

Dealers said banks who had long shunned the market jumped back in when Mr. Demirel's True Path Party and the Social Democrat Populist Party clinched a coalition pact.

"If they can do what they have set out to do and cut down government borrowing, inflation and interest rates will come down, investments and the stock index will go up," said Ustun Sanver, board member of private Akbank.

IATA: Airline fines soar

GENEVA (R) — Fines on commercial airlines for bringing in illegal immigrants and other unacceptable passengers are expected to total \$46 million in 1991, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said.

The figure could rise to \$60 million in 1992, IATA Director-General Guenter Easer said in a

statement.

Complaining that the burden of immigration fines had already reached serious proportions, he said: "The airlines are already tax collectors for governments. Now it looks as though we are becoming immigration officers."

IATA, which groups 204 airlines around the world, said that nearly 20 countries, including ab-

out half the European Community's 12 member states, fined airlines for breaches of immigration laws such as bringing in passengers with expired passports or false documents or lacking visas.

The United States and Britain — which alone has billed airlines for \$30 million (about \$54 million) since 1987 — account for most of the penalties, IATA said.

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Paralysed German minister to be Kohl's 2nd-in-line

BONN (R) — German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, paralysed in an assassination bid last year, caps a dramatic political comeback this week when he takes over as second-in-line to Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Mr. Schäuble, who now dominates Bundestag debates from his purple-trimmed wheelchair, will be elected Monday as parliamentary leader for Mr. Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats.

The demanding job is the traditional springboard to the chancellorcy, and the once-athletic lawyer seems determined to prove even a paraplegic can clear the final hurdle.

"A man on his way to becoming a myth" was how the liberal Süddeutsche Zeitung described 49-year-old Schäuble, who as majority leader will have to promote Mr. Kohl's policies in parliamentary debates and keep 318 centre-right deputies working as a team.

Mr. Schäuble, far too clever to announce now he would like to have Mr. Kohl's job a few years down the line, talks about himself these days with an introspection rarely seen when he was known as the chancellor's "all-purpose weapon."

"I'm doing better than I would have expected a year ago, I feel up to the job," he said when asked about the parliamentary leader's post, for which he is unopposed.

"People can adjust to new situations in ways I thought possible. There is always hope."

Mr. Schäuble, Bonn's negotiator in its unification talks with east Germany, was already Mr. Kohl's unofficial crown prince when they celebrated the triumph of German unity on Oct. 3, 1990.

Once the December general election was over, he was set to advance to parliamentary leader after a smooth career as Mr. Kohl's speech writer, chancellor minister and interior minister.

But on Oct. 12 a deranged man shot him in the spine and jaw just as Mr. Schäuble, a father of four, was leaving a campaign rally in his Offenbach constituency in southwestern Germany.

Mr. Schäuble, a cool and efficient type whose quiet manner hides a sharp debating tongue, spent weeks in intensive care and returned to Bonn early this year looking frail but determined.

Although he still had trouble speaking and sitting up, the iron-willed minister forged ahead with a plan to publish — with the help of two ghostwriters — what turned out to be a best-selling book about the German unity negotiations.

Mr. Kohl kept faith in him throughout, reminding Germans that President Franklin Roosevelt ran the United States through the depression and World War II from a wheelchair.

Mr. Schäuble dispelled any lingering doubts about his political skills in June with a moving speech in parliament that proved crucial in swaying deputies to vote to move united Germany's government from the old western capital Bonn to Berlin.

Yugoslav accord on U.N. troops may come soon

ROME (R) — Yugoslavia's warring parties could agree final details on the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force within a week if a ceasefire due to come into force on Sunday holds, U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance said.

Mr. Vance told a news conference in Rome that no exact time had been fixed for the latest truce, signed by Serbian, Croatian and federal army leaders at an emergency meeting which he called in Geneva Saturday.

"We have made it very clear that without a lasting and effective ceasefire there could not, in my view, be a United Nations peacekeeping operation," Mr. Vance said after briefing U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is now in Rome.

"...All of the Yugoslav parties that were present said they wanted to see the deployment of such an operation as soon as possible," the former U.S. secretary of state added.

Asked if there were any grounds for believing the latest truce would be any more successful than the 13 previous ceasefires, Mr. Vance said Croatia had pledged to lift its blockade of federal army barracks if the army withdrew its men and weapons from the installations.

"That is a very important fact... as those barracks are unblocked and the (federal army) troops are withdrawn, that takes away one of the principal causes that you have had for the kind of shelling that you saw at Vukovar," he said.

Mr. Vance said they had been unable to agree at the Geneva talks where the troops should be deployed.

"But we have set a date for ourselves to try and complete the additional (details) in a week or so and I have agreed to return at that time to try and make the final work-out of such things," he said.

Serbia, which opposes Croatia's declaration of independence, wants the U.N. force stationed along the current lines of conflict.

Croatia, fearing this would in effect mean the loss of its land now controlled by the army of Serbian irregulars, insists it must be placed on its official borders.

Asked if U.N. troops could be deployed both at flashpoints and along Croatia's official borders, Mr. Vance said: "The simple drawing of a line and putting troops along that line has not proved over the years a very practical way to do this. There are other ways that have been used that are far more successful."

He declined to say how large the U.N. contingent could be or which countries could contribute to it.

"One first has to define where the exact flashpoints are and examine what the terrain is like... how many of them would be infantry people, how many would be police. That's why we need another week or so," he said.

Meanwhile, the breakaway

Yugoslav Republic of Croatia saw an early morning lull in fighting as warring parties awaited a new truce due to come into effect Sunday.

Most of Croatia was quiet in the early hours of Sunday but there were some explosions near Karlovac, west of Zagreb, and in the eastern Croatian capital of Osijek, Zagreb Radio said.

It said fighting was still raging for control of Ernestinovo, a strategic village south of Osijek.

The army has launched an offensive on the city since it captured nearby Vukovar last weekend.

Mr. Vance warned that the latest truce had to be serious and not, like the 13 previous efforts, "just words that disappeared like dust in the air."

This could be a last chance to halt the fighting and enable the U.N. to send a peacekeeping force which both sides want.

"I emphasised that this must be a genuine ceasefire, not just another meaningless declaration which is then ignored," Mr. Vance said.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman and Yugoslav Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic signed the truce.

The early Sunday lull in the fighting did not raise hopes in the Croatian capital that the truce would be different.

"The only way of having a ceasefire here if the army leaves Croatia," an Information Ministry spokeswoman said.



A Croatian national guard member raises his republic's flag in the threatened stronghold of Osijek.

Shevardnadze warns of danger of Armenia-Azerbaijan war

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned the southern Soviet Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan not to let a bitter quarrel over a crashed helicopter develop into war.

Azerbaijan says Armenians shot down the helicopter, killing 20 people, and vowed to take action in retaliation. Armenia says plans by the Azerbaijani parliament for a Nov. 26 emergency debate on the crash amount to a declaration of war.

"It is mortally dangerous to yield to emotions and to allow the conflict to grow into a war between the republics," Mr. Shevardnadze, quoted by Soviet news agency (TASS), said Saturday.

The helicopter crashed Wednesday in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave inside Azerbaijan which has suffered more than three years of guerrilla war between militants from the two republics.

A local conflict has already developed into an inter-regional one. There is just one step left before it becomes a worldwide one," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

Armenia says the crash was an accident caused by bad weather. The victims included Azeri negotiators trying to end fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh where more than 800 people have been killed since 1988.

Armenia and Azerbaijan had cooperated in peace efforts sponsored by Russia and Kazakhstan. But Armenia broke off the talks Thursday because Azerbaijan failed to lift a two-week-old gas blockade which has brought Armenian industry to a virtual standstill.

The leader of the Azerbaijani delegation, deputy parliamentary Chairman Ziyad Samed-Zade, said Saturday the talks should not be continued.

TASS quoted him as saying they should resume only if Armenia withdrew its claim on Nagorno-Karabakh and stopped hostile action against Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani capital, Baku, is spending the weekend in mourning for the helicopter victims. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Baku Friday for their funerals.

The emergency parliamentary session in Baku Tuesday will debate the introduction of martial law and new defence measures, possibly including the call-up of Azerbaijani soldiers and officers serving in the Soviet army.

It will also discuss the status of Nagorno-Karabakh and a possible break in economic ties with Armenia.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said in Yerevan Friday that the session's agenda was in effect a declaration of war, the independent Armenian Snark News Agency reported.

The agency also quoted Interior Minister Ashot Manucharyan as saying the Azerbaijani leadership had used the crash as a pretext to prepare widespread military operations.

In a separate development, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Saturday his republic would not join in a new confederation of Soviet republics, Interfax News Agency reported.

His refusal is a blow for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who has said he is still hoping the powerful Ukraine will become part of the new grouping agreed between eight republics at the suburban villa of Novo-Ogaryovo last week.

"I will take no part in the Novo-Ogaryovo process, that is talks on signing a new union treaty," Interfax quoted Mr. Kravchuk as saying during an election campaign speech. "All allegations that I mean to join the treaty later are nothing but fiction."

Mr. Kravchuk is tipped to win presidential elections in the Ukraine on Dec. 1, on a pledge to win independence from Moscow for his powerful republic.

The loose confederation binding together former Soviet Republics will be initiated next week. It reflects the new-found strength of the republics as central Soviet power crumbles in the wake of August's failed coup.

'U.S. considering deeper defence cuts'

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Defence Department is preparing options for military spending cuts of as much as \$50 billion over the next five years that President George Bush could use for domestic programmes, the New York Times reported Sunday.

It said the cuts would affect fundamental military programmes, including troops, weapons purchases and military bases.

Mr. Bush, who is expected to run for re-election next year, is under fire from Democrats who accuse him of failing to address domestic problems.

Quoting senior administration and Defence Department officials, the newspaper said the Bush administration publicly continues to resist cuts beyond the 25 per cent reduction in forces envisioned by 1995 under current Pentagon plans.

But the newspaper said a comprehensive review is under way that could result in deeper reductions in troops, warplanes and aircraft carriers.

According to the New York Times, the review was ordered by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was being conducted under "extraordinary secrecy."

Yeltsin tells troops: 'Be ready for hard 6 months'

WUENSODORF, Germany (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin warned Soviet troops in Germany that they would face a trying six months on their return home, but vowed things would improve.

Mr. Yeltsin's arrival at the fog-bound headquarters of Soviet forces in Germany drew shrieks of delight from about 3,000 children at the Wuensdorf Base and applause from officers among the last generation of Soviet soldiers on German soil.

But the mood of many was sombre as they considered returning to a country of chronic food shortages and poor pay and housing.

"We're sitting on our cases, waiting to go home," said one young major as a military band launched into an unexpected refrain of Glenn Miller's "In The Mood to pass the time." "But no one knows what they'll go back to."

All Soviet troops must be out by the end of 1994 under a treaty with united Germany.

Mr. Yeltsin told a meeting in the officers' club Saturday that the economic reforms he was carrying out at home, including steep price rises, would inevitably hurt the population.

"For the first half year life will become harder," he warned his audience. "But then in the year after that the situation will stabilise."

Solution to Haiti crisis is a long way off — mediator

CARTAGENA, Colombia (R) — The chief mediator in the crisis caused by Haiti's military coup said Saturday he hoped for some agreement at talks taking place over the weekend but that a definitive settlement was a long way off.

"You really can't resolve such a complex situation, you can't remake a social fabric so affected by very great internal violence... in a day," Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, head of an Organisation of American States (OAS) mediation team, said at the talks being held at this Colombian resort.

"It requires long and patient work," he said after a first day's talks between President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in the Sept. 30 coup, and Haitian legislators.

The talks in the Caribbean resort of Cartagena are the first between Mr. Aristide and his critics in parliament since the coup.

Delegates said they had not yet come up with a solution to the Haitian crisis.

Mr. Ramirez, a former Colombian foreign minister, said he hoped to have some announcement by noon Sunday, when the

triumph of democracy out of catastrophe," he said.

Thousands of Haitians have fled the island in boats since the coup, some of them dying in the attempt. Mr. Aristide has urged Haitians not to flee the country but to stay and peacefully resist the army-backed government.

The solution to the exodus was that Haitians "should try to stay in Haiti to go on with peaceful, non-violent resistance and that the democratic press should return," Mr. Aristide said Saturday.

He said he believed it was possible to reach an agreement and hinted at compromise by saying he would accept the formation of a new government as part of an agreement which included his reinstatement.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 Haitians who fled their country in boats are sheltering at a refugee camp on Cuba's eastern tip, the Cuban Community Party newspaper Granma said Saturday.

Among them were 60 survivors from the shipwreck Tuesday night of a sailboat packed with some 200 refugees which sank in bad weather close to Maisi Point, more than 1,000 kilometres east of the Cuban capital Havana.

Several hundred more Haitian refugees have arrived in boats since the shipwreck and the refugee camp set up by Cuban authorities near the Maisi Light-house was filled to double its intended capacity, Granma said in a brief report from the eastern province of Guantanamo.

It named the shipwrecked boat as the 33-foot (10-metre) Lady Philip and said it had been in poor condition and heavily overloaded with passengers when it went down in the windward passage which separates Cuba and Haiti.

Nearly 100 bodies had been recovered by Cuban rescuers. Around 40 more were still missing and presumed dead. They were being buried almost immediately at a local cemetery to prevent the outbreak of disease.

Granma said rescue workers believed many of those missing were still trapped in the wreck of the boat, which sank some 150 metres from the Cuban coast.

Cuban officials say they are consulting with the International Community of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to decide what to do with the Haitians.

Column Diana is Vogue's Christmas cover-girl

LONDON (R) — In sharp contrast with the often formal pictures of British royalty, Princess Diana appears in cover-girl pose on the front of the December edition of the fashion magazine Vogue, out Saturday. The close-up shows Britain's future queen resting her head on her hands and smiling up to the camera with tousled hair. The princess, patron of the English National Ballet and the London City Ballet, agreed to pose for the picture to mark a special dance feature. It was taken by French photographer Patrick Demachy.

Husband cooked wife's head, denies feeding her to cat

MOLD, Wales (R) — A Briton accused of killing and dismembering his Filipina wife described Friday how he strangled her, cut off her head and cooked it in an oven. But he denied claims that he fed some of her remains to his pet cat Katie, a court in Mold, North Wales, heard. Aircraft fitter John Perry, 52, denies murdering his 27-year-old wife Arminda at their home in Wales. He said she died during a struggle after she threatened to slash her wrists with a knife in a row over getting a divorce. "I knew from when I was a schoolboy that the body comprises approximately seven-tenths water and that if I removed the water I could disperse the body in shallow graves," Perry said. He buried his wife's brains and eyes in a forest after prising her skull apart with a chisel and saw. Asked by defence lawyers whether he fed part of his wife to the cat, Perry replied: "Certainly not." The trial continues.

Family feud causes grave offence

LONDON (R) — A family feud that continued to the grave is about to be resolved — by exhumation. Widow Diane Richards said her late husband Albert had detested his step-father Alfred. They lie in the same grave but Diane has obtained permission to have Alfred dug up and moved. "I don't care where Alfred goes as long as he is not in my husband's grave. I'm sure Albert would be pleased too," she said.

The Times decides it's time to change

LONDON (R) — The Times, Britain's oldest national daily, has said it will change its typeface, abandoning a 60-year-old script that has been adopted by newspapers around the globe. Designers from Britain and Iceland put their heads together for more than a year to come up with "Times millennium" — a new family of 14 print faces and some 5,000 redrawn characters which will appear Monday. "The new type looks cleaner and clearer. Our hope is that the Times will be easier to read," said editor Simon Jenkins. "It is a subtle yet definite evolution of a great work of industrial design. Once again the Times is the forerunner of newspaper typography," he said. The old typeface, "Times new roman," was ideal for hot metal printing. Designed for the Times nearly 60 years ago, it became the most widely used Latin typeface in the world. The newspaper celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1985. The last big revolution in its appearance was in 1966 when it began to devote its front page solely to news instead of dense columns of private advertisements. Since 1981 the Times has been owned by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

View of English town centre judged worst postcard

LONDON (R) — A dreary view of high-rise blocks and buses in Redditch town centre in central England has been judged by a panel of experts to be the world's worst postcard. "It's a dreadfully dull subject," said Martin Parr for the panel of media judges. "It's surprising the photographer did as well as he did considering what he was up against." Other finalists included "cassava bread baking on roof of Amerindian hut in Rupununi" and "view of the gasworks from Addington Street toilets in Leeds." The competition was dreamed up by local councillors in the northern industrial town of Wigan to find boring places to make their own town look interesting. First prize for the owner of the winning postcard, Elizabeth McPallin — a weekend in Wigan.

JORDAN VALLEY ARABIAN STUD

The Jordan Valley Arabian Stud announces the opening of a course in cross-country riding. The course will include riding through rough and difficult terrain. The course will include training in taking care of the horses during the trip. The Stud will provide provisions for the participants and the horses. Logistics and transportation will also be provided by the Stud, in addition to medical care. Participants must be over 30 years old, mature, responsible towards the horse and his colleagues and must have at least five years of riding experience.

The first stage will be from Amman to Ma'an round trip which is about 500 k.m. Competent riders who own horses are welcome to join provided they have the same qualifications. This is an endurance riding which will cover wide areas never seen before. This trip and course is open for Jordanians and non-Jordanians.

For more details, call Ret. Col. Nasser Mirza. Tel. 829882 or Fax 829883, Jaber Centre, Mecca Str.

Handwritten note in Arabic: "هذا من الجاهل"